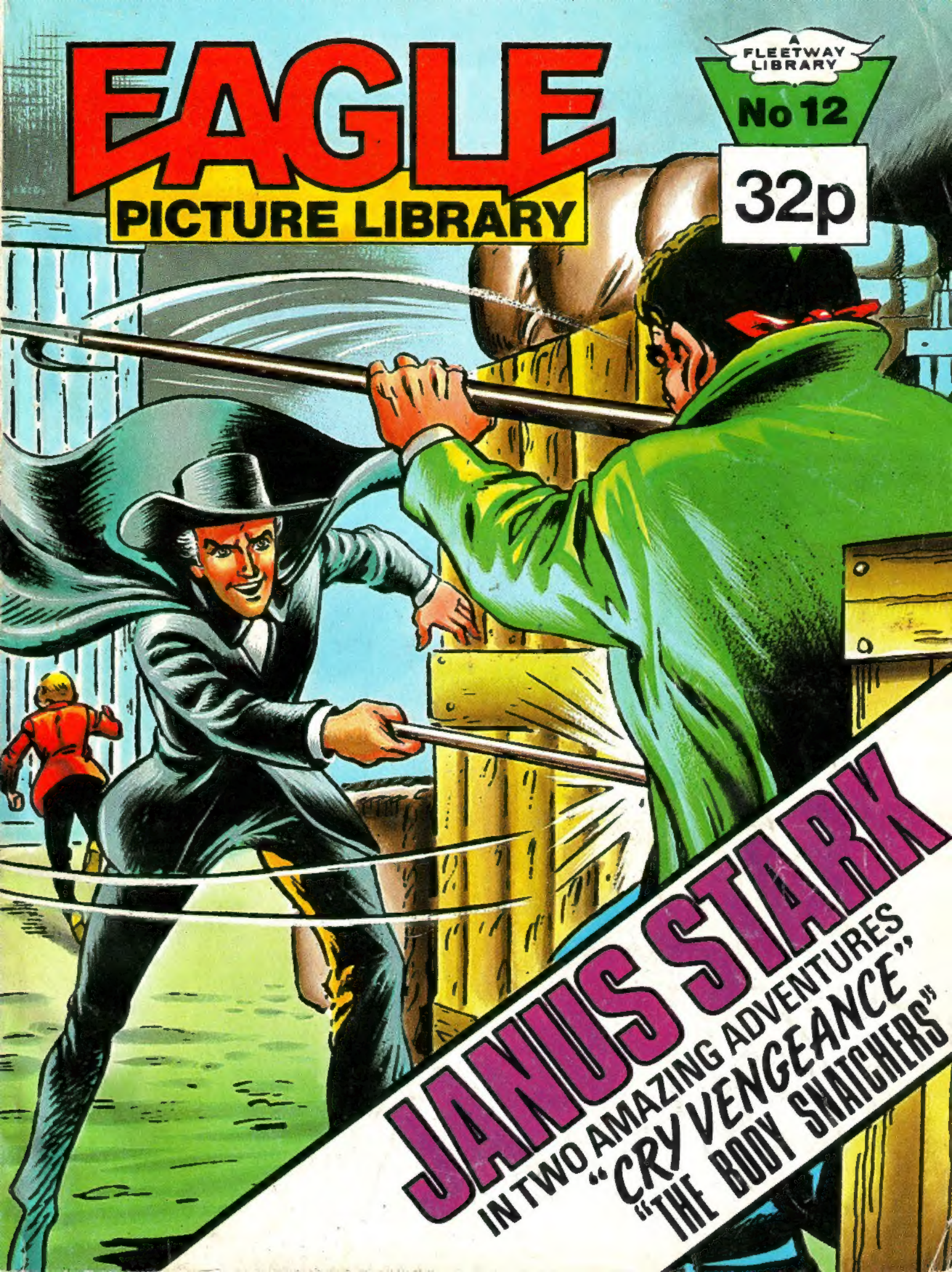
EAGLE

PICTURE LIBRARY

A FLEETWAY LIBRARY

No 12

32p



JANUS STARK

IN TWO AMAZING ADVENTURES

"CRY VENGEANCE"

"THE BODY SNATCHERS"

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO ENJOY IN THE NEW-LOOK...

ITS NINE POWERFUL STORIES MAKE IT THE BEST COMIC READ FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES!

ON SALE EVERY MONDAY Price 24p

Australia 65c
New Zealand 65c
Malaysia $1.50

No. 181 Every Monday 7th September, 1985

9 ALL NEW STORIES!

EAGLE and TIGER

24p

DOOMLORD

AND SON TAKE A TOUR OF THE COSMOS

AND MEET THE CHARIOT WARRIORS

CRY VENGEANCE

THE ANCIENT BRIDEWELL OF OLDGATE STOOD IN THE VERY HEART OF THE CITY OF LONDON. TO MAKE READY FOR EXTENSIVE REBUILDING, THE MOST ANCIENT OF THE GAUNT PRISON'S MEDIAEVAL DUNGEONS HAD BEEN UNCOVERED AFTER CENTURIES OF DISUSE..
THE ODD CONDEMNED CELL, MR. STARK. NO PRISONER ESCAPED FROM IT. NOT ONE!
NOT EVEN THE LEGENDARY JACK SHEPPARD, EH? IT IS GOOD OF YOU TO GIVE ME THE CHANCE BEFORE IT IS DEMOLISHED FOR EVER.

© IPC Magazines Ltd., 1985

LITHELY, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPOLOGIST SPRANG DOWN INTO THE REEKING DUNGEON...
TWENTY MINUTES PERHAPS YOU'LL WAIT FOR ME IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE..?
AYE! WE'LL WAIT! AND THEN WE'LL COME DOWN AND LET YOU OUT AGAIN!
HEAVING AND STRAINING, THREE WARDERS REPLACED THE MASSIVE SLAB TO SEAL JANUS IN...
THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN.
IF YOU ASK ME, STARK'S ABOUT TO MAKE A PROPER FOOL OF HIMSELF!
BUT JANUS HAD SPENT THE PREVIOUS DAY STUDYING ANCIENT PLANS IN THE LONDON MUSEUM...
AS I THOUGHT! THE OPENING OF THE DRAINAGE CULVERT!
FEW WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT JANUS COULD CONTRACT LIMBS AND MUSCLES SO INCREDIBLY! HIS ENTIRE BODY SEEMED TO BE OF RUBBER!
NNNFF!
GNNUHHH!
AAAGH! THE PAIN! THE— THE PAIN...

AT LAST, AS HE KNEW IT WOULD, THE CULVERT OPENED OUT INTO A LONG-FORGOTTEN AND DISUSED SEWER...
ALMOST-THERE! JUST ONE-LAST-HEAVE!
MINUTES LATER, A RUSTED DRAIN IN THE PRISON COURTYARD ROSE FROM ITS SEATINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO HUNDRED YEARS...
AND NOW FOR THOSE DOUBTING THOMASES...
IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE...
MORE SHERRY, GENTLEMEN I BELIEVE WE HAVE TIME...
PLENTY! SCARCE TEN MINUTES HAVE GONE BY!
THEN...
A GLASS FOR ME GUV'NOR? I SELDOM TOUCH IT, BUT ON THIS OCCASION...
G-GREAT JUPITER!
HE-HE'S DONE IT!

ASTONISHMENT GAVE WAY TO GENUINE ADMIRATION...
YOU ARE AS GREAT AS YOU CLAIM, JANUS!
MY CONGRATULATIONS, SIR!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU ALL!
I FANCY THIS WILL GAIN GOOD PUBLICITY FOR MY FORTHCOMING TOUR..?
YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT, JANUS!
THE WORD OF JANUS'S SUCCESS HAD SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE PRISON GRAPEVINE...
COME ON, JANUS SHOW ME HOW YOU DID IT!
I'D GIVE A YEAR'S LOOT TO KNOW YOUR SECRETS, CULLY!
BUT THERE WAS ONE PRISONER WHO DID NOT SHARE THE ROUGH ENTHUSIASM OF HIS FELLOW ROGUES...
AYE, WALK FREE, JANUS STARK! BUT COME SATURDAY, I SHALL BE OUT OF HERE TOO...
AND YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE FROM THE HATRED AND VENGEANCE OF EMMANUEL CLENCH!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED JANUS AND HIS MANAGER MADE PLANS FOR A COUNTRY-WIDE TOUR . . .
SOME SPLENDID ARTICLES IN THE NEWSPAPERS, JANUS.
IN ALL MODESTY I DID RATHER IMPRESS OUR REPORTER FRIENDS, BARNABY!
I WISH YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FACES!
THE FACES I LIKE TO SEE ARE THE ONES FILLING THE THEATRES, MY DEAR BOY!
WHY, THEY'LL BE STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER THIS TIME!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU BETTER, BARNABY I'D THINK YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH MONEY!
THE TOUR WAS TO BEGIN IN PORTSMOUTH. ON THE DAY BEFORE HE WAS DUE TO OPEN JANUS SET UP THE ELABORATE EQUIPMENT FOR A SENSATIONAL ESCAPE . . .
I SHALL BE MANACLED BARNABY, ROPED INTO A SACK, AND PLACED WITHIN THAT IRON EGG.
WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY BE HELD SHUT WITH PADLOCKS!

QUITE. HOWEVER, IT WILL HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH WATER!
BUT YOU WON'T DROWN, JANUS? AFTER ALL, THERE'LL BE A SPACE OF AIR WITHIN THE LID...
YOU SEE THIS GAS BURNER, BARNABY? IT WILL RAPIDLY BOIL THE WATER WITHIN THE EGG...
BY JOVE! DON'T YOU THINK THE RISK IS TOO GREAT, JANUS? EVEN FOR YOU?
NO RISK IS TOO GREAT FOR JANUS STARK, BARNABY!
YOU RECKON WITHOUT EMMANUEL CLENCH, STARK! THAT EGG WILL BE YOUR TOMB!
NOT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OUT OF JAIL, CLENCH HAD SECURED A JOB AT THE THEATRE...
AND IT WILL ALL LOOK LIKE AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT!

ON THE MONDAY NIGHT, THE SHOW OPENED TO A CRAMMED HOUSE. A CONJURER WARMED UP THE AUDIENCE...
HE'S RATHER GOOD!
YES INDEED. BUT IT'S JANUS I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE!
AT LAST, THE CURTAINS PARTED...
I GIVE YOU GREETINGS! YOU ARE NOW ABOUT TO WITNESS — THE IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU WILL SEE THAT I AM TOTALLY SECURED!
THERE WAS NOT A SOUND FROM THE AUDIENCE AS JANUS WAS TIED INTO THE HEAVY CANVAS SACK...
IN HE GOES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! AND NOW WE'LL IMMERSE HIM IN WATER!
IT WAS DONE. AND THE LID CLANGED SHUT, TO BE SECURED...
THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD!
YOU NEVER SAID A TRUER WORD, FRIEND! FIVE YEARS I'VE WAITED FOR THIS!

A SIMPLE CANDLE HAD BEEN RIGGED TO IGNITE THE GAS-BURNERS. BUT FOR LONG MOMENTS NOTHING HAPPENED...
WHAT'S GOING ON..? HE'S DROWNING IN THERE!
NEVER! NOT JANUS STARK!
THEN...
BOOOM
THERE WAS INSTANT PANDEMONIUM!
QUICK! THE STAGE IS ON FIRE!
DA-CHONGG!
PLEASE, EVERYONE DON'T PANIC!
FAREWELL, STARK MY REVENGE IS SWEET!

BUT EMMANUEL CLENCH WAS TOO CONFIDENT BY FAR! DOWN IN THE ORCHESTRA PIT. . .
GU-GUHHH I LIVE! I LIVE!
HE-HE'S FREE!
BUT-BUT HOW..?

CALM YOURSELVES! WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN WAS NOT PLANNED— BUT I CONFESS I CAME FACE TO FACE WITH DEATH!

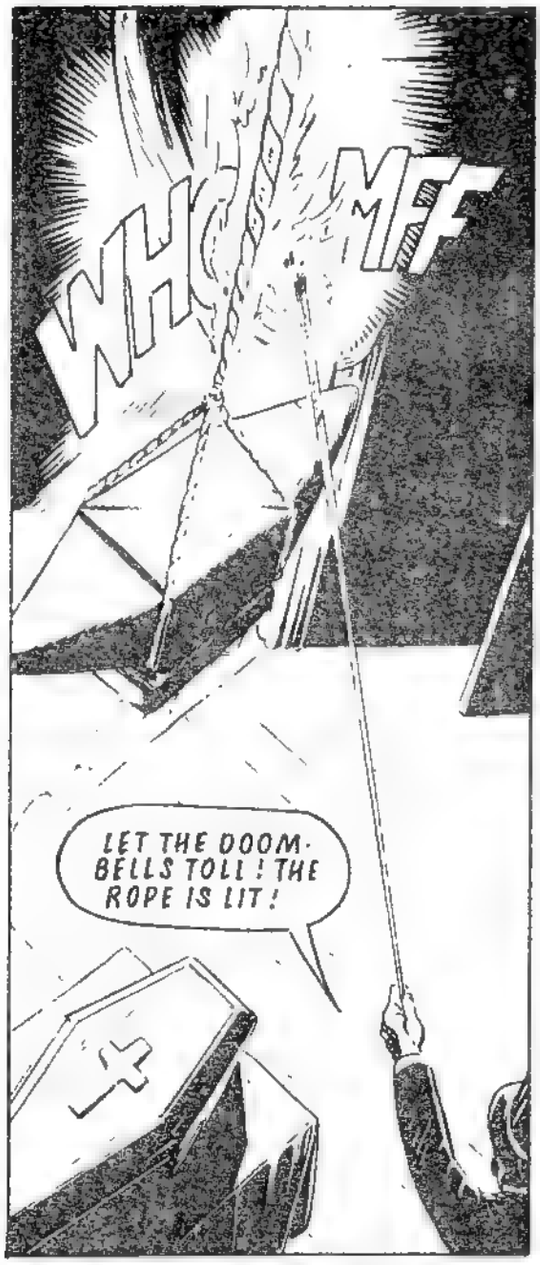
A THUNDERING OVATION DINNED IN JANUS'S EARS AS HE LEFT THE STAGE. . .
MR. STARK! WHAT CAN I SAY?
MY DEAR SIR THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN, AND ALL THAT... THINK NO MORE OF IT!

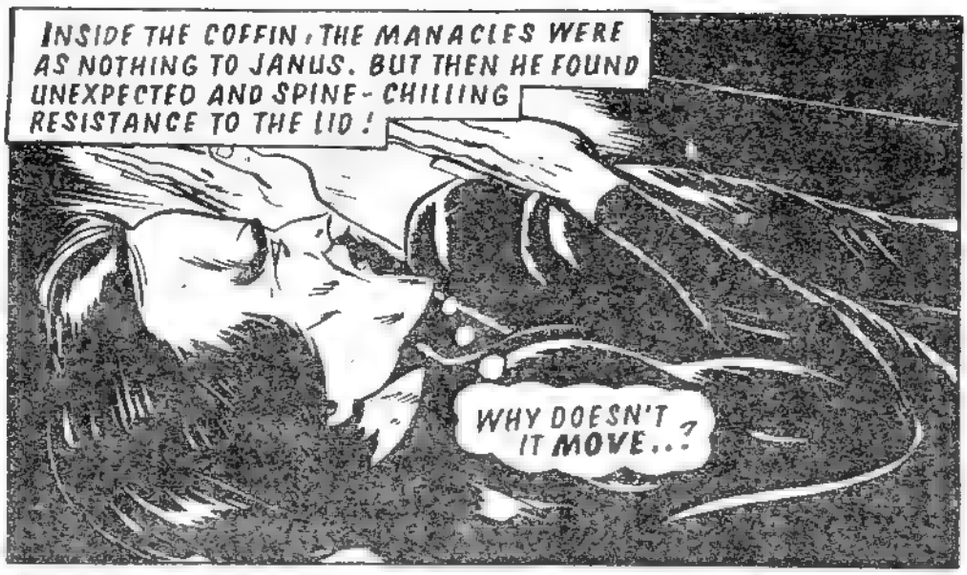
IT WAS LUCKY I RETAINED MY SENSES, I ADMIT. BUT THINK OF THE ADDED PUBLICITY!

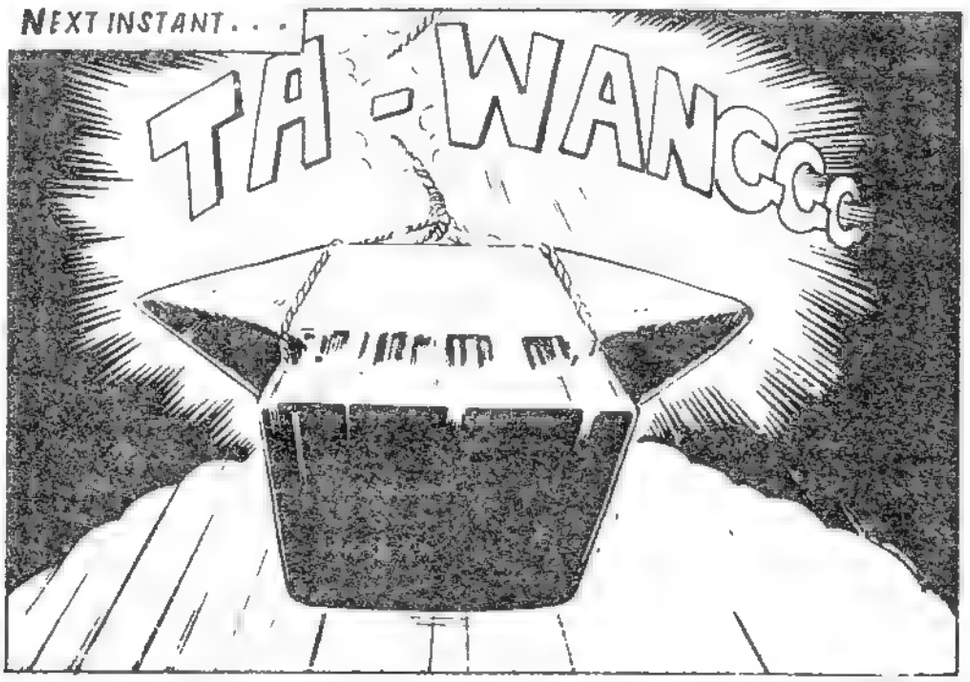
PUBLICITY INDEED. . .
READ ALL ABAHT IT! FAMOUS ESCAPEOLOGIST CHEATS DEATH IN 'ORRIBLE ACCIDENT!
GIVE ME A PAPER, BOY!

ONE MAN READ THE NEWS WITH ALMOST INSANE FURY...
CURSES ON THE MAN! BUT HE'LL NOT CHEAT MY PLANS! EMMANUEL CLENCH WILL NEVER GIVE UP!
JANUS AND BARNABY TRAVELLED ON FROM PORTSMOUTH TO SALISBURY BY TRAIN...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS PERFORMANCE THE ESCAPE SHOULD BE A REAL WINNER.
YES – AND NO GAS BURNERS TO WORRY ABOUT EH? HAH HAH HAH!
LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, YOU BUFFOON! THIS TIME TOMORROW YOU'LL HAVE LOST YOUR PRECIOUS JANUS STARK FOR EVER!
HOW SIMPLE IT WOULD BE FOR ME JUST TO MURDER YOU. BUT THAT WOULD BE FAR, FAR TOO EASY!
THAT NIGHT, ON THE STAGE OF THE THEATRE ROYAL, SALISBURY...
I SHALL BE NAILED – YES NAILED INTO THE COFFIN MANACLED, OF COURSE! YOU SEE THE ANVIL THERE!

IT WEIGHS HALF A TON AND IS SUSPENDED ON A ROPE THAT HAS BEEN SOAKED IN SALTPETRE AND DRIED...
THAT ROPE 'LL BURN LIKE FURY! IT'LL DROP THE ANVIL ON 'IM IN SECONDS!
SQUASHED FLAT HE 'LL BE!
QUIET
SHUSH!
ASHES TO ASHES DUST TO DUST...
NOW, NOW! DON'T OVERDO IT, MY FRIEND!
NAILS WERE POUNDED INTO THE COFFIN LID...
KA-LUDDA!
THOKKA!
I KNOW SOMETHING OF YOUR METHODS, STARK, AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE REPLACED YOUR TRICK COFFIN-NAILS WITH STRONGER METAL. THIS TIME...


WHO
MF
LET THE DOOM-BELLS TOLL! THE ROPE IS LIT!


INSIDE THE COFFIN, THE MANACLES WERE AS NOTHING TO JANUS. BUT THEN HE FOUND UNEXPECTED AND SPINE-CHILLING RESISTANCE TO THE LID!
WHY DOESN'T IT MOVE..?

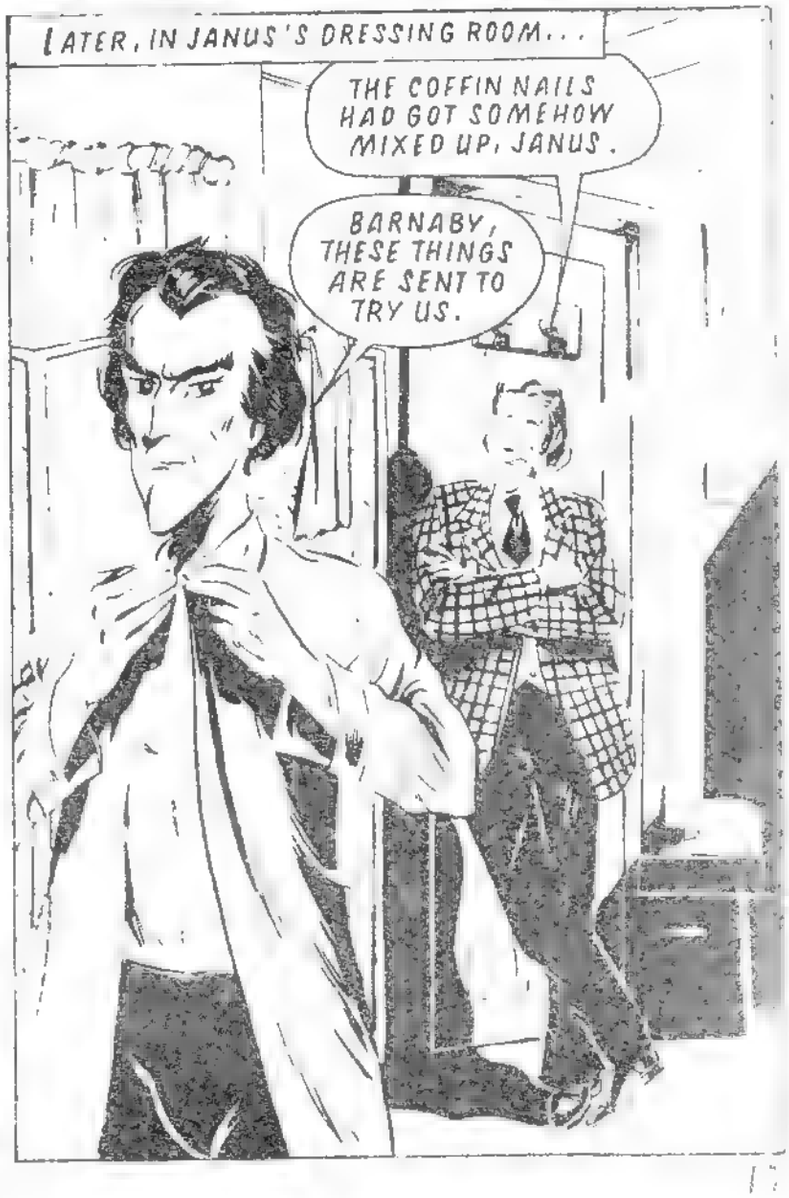

NEXT INSTANT...
TA-WANGGG

KA-RASSSSSH

SCREAMS OF HORROR BROKE OUT ALL OVER THE AUDITORIUM!
I-I CAN'T LOOK!
THE POOR DEVIL!
WE'VE WITNESSED THE DEATH OF JANUS STARK!

INSIDE THE REMAINS OF THE COFFIN...
NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME DO I BLESS MY RUBBER-LIKE BODY! IT IS TIME TO QUELL MY PUBLIC'S DISTRESS...
WHAT? YOUR WHITE FACES SUGGEST THAT YOU DOUBTED THE POWERS OF JANUS STARK!
STREWTH! HE AIN'T HUMAN! HE JUST AIN'T!

INSIDE THE STAGE-SIDE BOX...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S PROTECTING YOU, STARK, BUT I'LL BEAT IT YET! BE YOU GOD OR DEVIL, YOU'LL DIE AT MY HANDS IN THE END!


LATER, IN JANUS'S DRESSING ROOM...
THE COFFIN NAILS HAD GOT SOMEHOW MIXED UP, JANUS.
BARNABY, THESE THINGS ARE SENT TO TRY US.

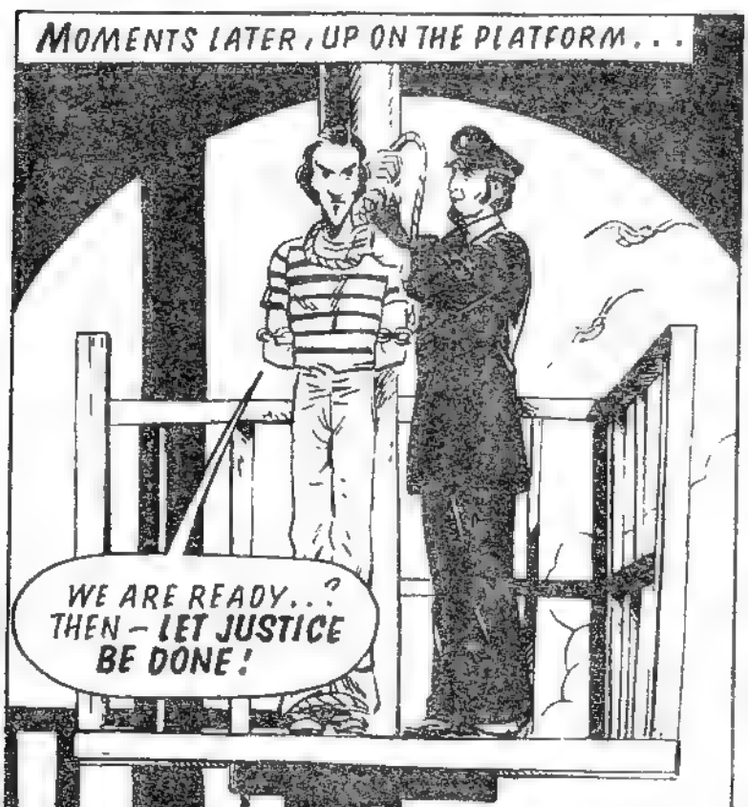
TWO ACCIDENTS IN A ROW? I DON'T LIKE IT, MY BOY.
TUSH, FELLOW YOU'LL BE TELLING ME YOU BELIEVE IN A JINX NEXT!
LET US HOPE THAT ALL GOES WELL AT BRISTOL TOMORROW!
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH! SMILE! THINK OF ALL THE PUBLICITY CAN THAT BE SO BAD..?
ALL THE SAME, I HOPE MISFORTUNES DO NOT COME IN THREES...
JANUS HAD MADE IT KNOWN THAT FOR BRISTOL, HIS ACT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO THE OLD SEA-FARING CITY...
HE'S TO BE HANGED FROM A YARDARM!
SHAME! AN' HE AIN'T EVEN DONE NOTHIN' WRONG!
HE'LL BE ALL ROPED-UP, WITH HIS LASHED BEHIND HIM, AN' IRONS ON HIS ARMS...

A NOOSE ROUND HIS NECK HE'LL JUMP FROM A PLATFORM ABOVE THE STAGE! IF HE DON'T GET HIS HANDS FREE...
HIS NECK'LL GO. LIKE SO!
AT ANOTHER TABLE, A SOLITARY FIGURE WAS LISTENING...
AYE! AND HIS NECK WILL GO! I'LL SEE TO THAT!
THE SHOW OPENED. JANUS DELIGHTED THE CROWDS WITH A SERIES OF TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS BEFORE HE CAME, AT LAST, TO THE PIECE DE RESISTANCE...
A DROP OF FORTY FEET — AND ONLY THIRTY FEET OF ROPE. I MUST ESCAPE WITHIN A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT!
STAGE-HANDS CAME OUT TO SECURE HIM BUT THEIR WAS A BRIEF PAUSE...
WAIT! WAIT THERE! 'TIS ME HONOUR TO OFFER 'EE A GLASS O' GROG, IN THE TRADITIONS OF THE NAVY, YER HONOUR!
WHAT..? BUT- BUT THIS IS UNREHEARSED..?

GO ON, JANUS 'TIS GOOD!
DROP O' GROG NEVER 'ARMED NO-ONE!

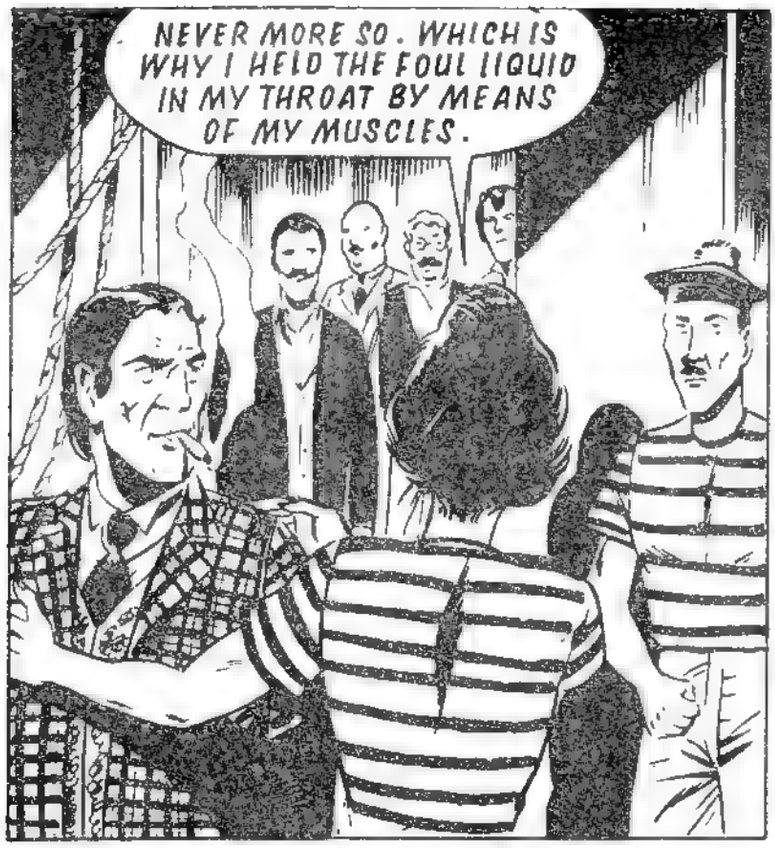
JANUS FOUND HIMSELF IN A REAL QUANDRY...
'TIS SELDOM THAT I TOUCH SPIRITS, BUT IT WOULD BE CHURLISH AND OFFENSIVE TO REFUSE!
GO ON, YER HONOUR! SUP IT DOWN!

MMM. EXCELLENT, ER – MATEY. MY THANKS!
NO, STARK! MY THANKS! THERE'S A DRUG IN THAT THAT'LL PROPERLY CRAMP YOUR FAMOUS MUSCLES!


MOMENTS LATER, UP ON THE PLATFORM...
WE ARE READY...? THEN – LET JUSTICE BE DONE!

KLUNK
NNUHHH!

THE ROPE UNWOUND WITH MIND-BLURRING SPEED – BUT IN THE VERY MOMENT BEFORE IT WRENCHED TAUT...
HOLA...
PA-THWONGGG!
TWANGGG!
...AND HUP!
BRAVO! BRILLIANT!
IN THE NICK OF TIME!
HAVING TAKEN HIS BOWS, JANUS LEFT THE STAGE...
SPLENDID, JANUS! STUPENDOUS! AND NO HITCHES THIS TIME, EH?
A CUP, BARNABY. GIVE ME A CUP.
WHA..?
PHOOO
I KNOW LITTLE ABOUT RUM, BUT I KNOW THE SCENT OF CURARE. WHERE'S THAT SAILOR WHO CAME ON STAGE..?
ARE YOU IN YOUR SENSES..?


NEVER MORE SO. WHICH IS WHY I HELD THE FOUL LIQUID IN MY THROAT BY MEANS OF MY MUSCLES.

OF THE DISGUISED CLENCH THERE WAS NO SIGN...
THEN THESE ACCIDENTS..?
YOU WERE RIGHT TO QUESTION THEM, MY FRIEND. CLEARLY, SOMEONE WISHES ME DEAD. BUT WHO? AND WHY?

WE MUST CANCEL THE REST OF THE TOUR AT ONCE!
NEVER! THIS IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE AND I WILL NOT TURN FROM IT! THE SHOWS GO ON!

FOR THE THIRD TIME, EMMANUEL CLENCH CURSED THE FAILURE OF HIS VILLAINY...
WILL I NEVER BE RID OF THAT MAN? HOW LONG MUST I WAIT BEFORE THE VENGEANCE I PLAN IS TAKEN..?

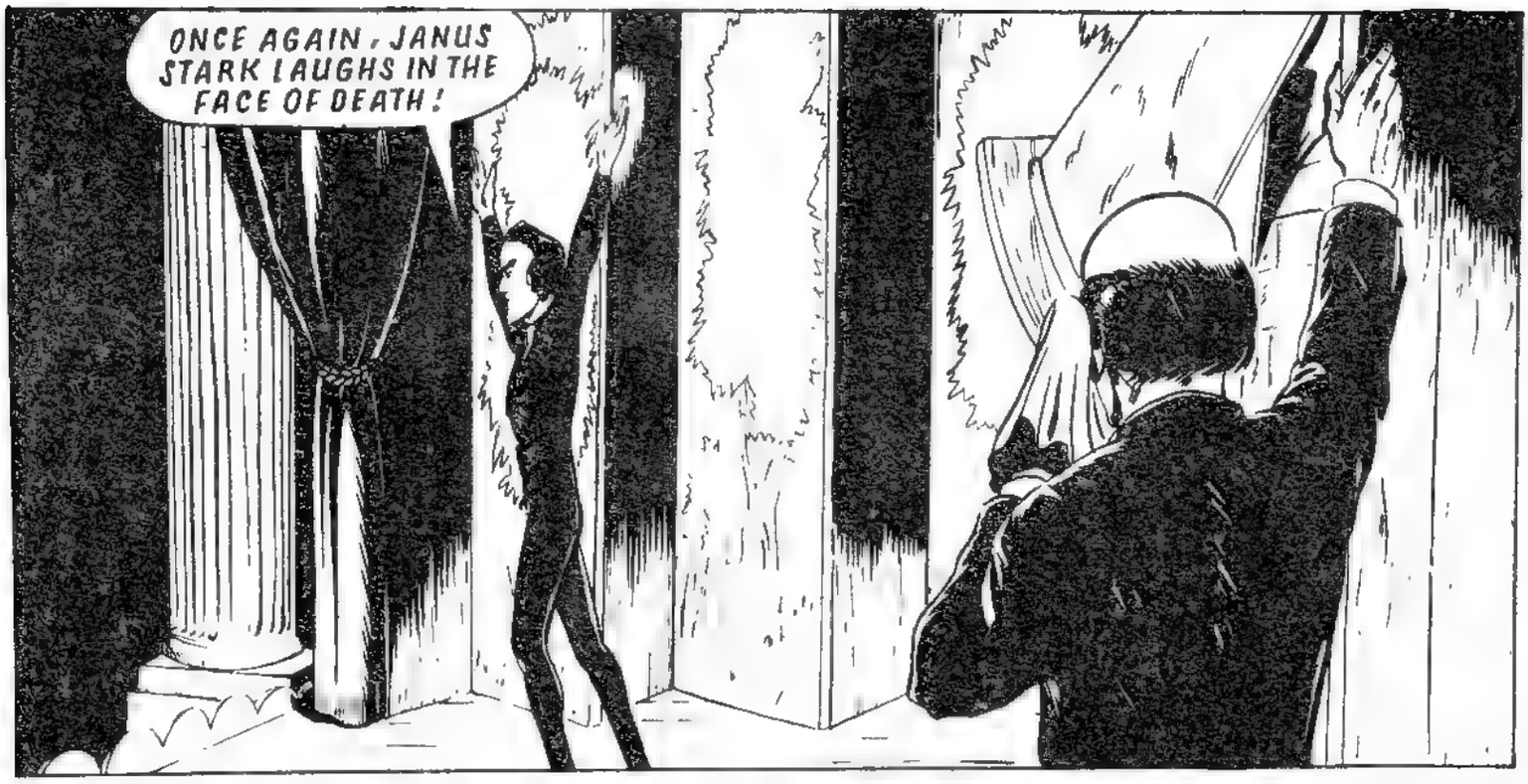
YOU THWART ME AT EVERY TURN, STARK BUT BE ASSURED! YOUR TIME WILL COME!

IT WAS IN HEREFORD'S REGINA THEATRE, THE NEXT AFTERNOON, THAT JANUS STARK RECEIVED A MOST UNEXPECTED VISITOR...
THERE HE IS, GUV'NOR. SITTIN' AT 'IS TABLE!
LARGO! BLIND LARGO, MY DEAR OLD FRIEND!
'TIS YOU, MY BOY! A LONG, LONG TIME...
MY TEACHER! THE PROTECTOR OF MY YOUTH! I AM HAPPY THAT YOU ARE HERE!
THERE'S BEEN TALK JANUS. ABOUT — ACCIDENTS. OLD LARGO SMELLED DANGER!
IF SOMEONE BE AFTER YOUR HIDE, 'TIS LARGO WHO'LL UNRAVEL THE TRUTH! YOU KNOW MY SKILLS, BOY!
THAT I DO! WITH YOU BEHIND ME, I'LL SLEEP O' NIGHTS!
GO NOW. TO LISTEN AND LEARN!
TAPPA
TAPPA

AT THE STAGE DOOR...
THUNDER! IT'S THAT EYELESS FRIEND OF STARK!
WHO'S THERE? SOMEONE'S THERE!
PEACE, OLD MAN I'M ONLY READING THE THEATRE BILLS!
CIENCH SHOULD HAVE HELD HIS TONGUE THERE ARE NO SENSES SO ACUTE AS THOSE OF A BLIND MAN...
THAT VOICE! 'TWAS EMMANUEL CIENCH!
INSIDE THE THEATRE, JANUS PREPARED THE STAGE FOR THE FORTHCOMING PERFORMANCE...
I SHALL BE CHAINED AND PADLOCKED, AND PLACED ON THE PLATFORM OF THE RIGHT-HAND WINDMILL SAIL, BARNABY...
AND SHOULD YOU FAIL TO ESCAPE BEFORE IT REVOLVES THROUGH THREE QUARTERS OF A CIRCLE...
I SHALL BE A DEAD-MAN!

AND SO, THAT EVENING...
WHEN THE SAILS ARE SET IN MOTION, THEY TAKE FIFTEEN SECONDS TO REVOLVE! A MERE FIFTEEN SECONDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
HE'LL NEVER GET FREE IN TIME!
LOOK AT THOSE PITCHFORKS!
THE WINDMILL BEGAN TO REVOLVE!
KRRAKKKKK
GRNNNND
GNNNN! MMME! MUST-HURRY..!

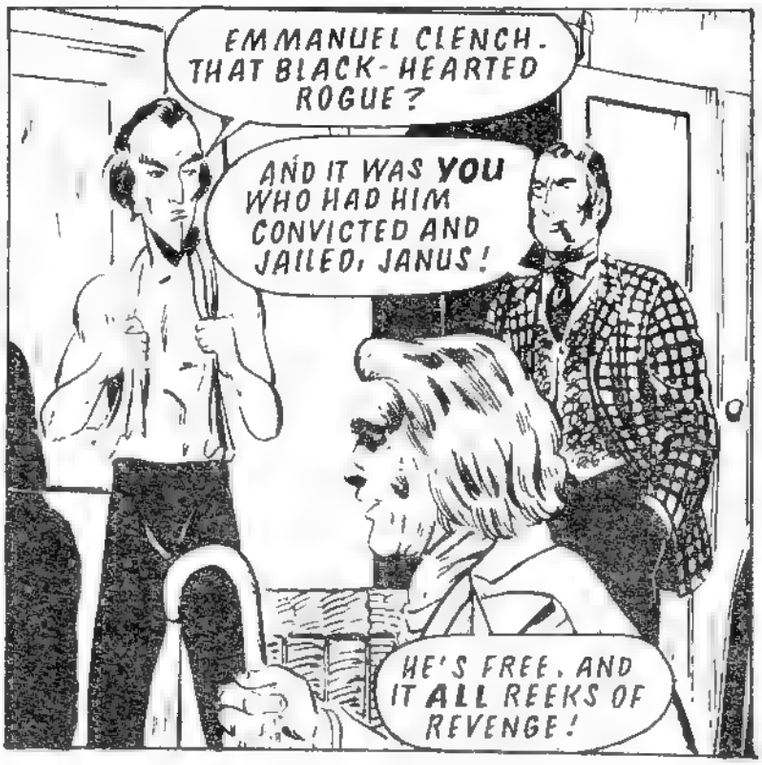
THE AUDIENCE HELD ITS BREATH AS HE PASSED THE HORIZONTAL...
AARGH! GURRGH!
QUICKLY, JANUS! QUICKLY YOU'VE LEFT IT TOO LATE!
BUT JANUS KNEW HOW TO KEEP THE CROWD ENTHRALLED! AT THE LAST – THE VERY LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT...
SHLANGG
KA-SHUNNKA
ET-VOILA!


ONCE AGAIN, JANUS STARK LAUGHS IN THE FACE OF DEATH!

AFTERWARDS...
WELL, THERE WAS NO VILLAINOUS HINDRANCE THIS TIME, BARNABY!
I THINK WE'VE SCARED THE VARMINT OFF!

LARGO! WHO? WHICH VARMINT, AS YOU CALL HIM?

DO YOU REMEMBER A THEATRICAL AGENT, BOY? ONE WHO ROBBED PERFORMERS WHO FELL INTO HIS CLUTCHES!.?


EMMANUEL CLENCH. THAT BLACK-HEARTED ROGUE?
AND IT WAS YOU WHO HAD HIM CONVICTED AND JAILED, JANUS!
HE'S FREE, AND IT ALL REEKS OF REVENGE!

EVERYTHING FITS. CLENCH IS A CLEVER MAN. MY LIFE IS INDEED IN GRAVE DANGER...
THE NEXT CITY ON JANUS'S ROUTE WAS INDUSTRIAL BIRMINGHAM, WHERE HE PLANNED TO STAGE PERHAPS THE MOST DANGEROUS ESCAPE OF HIS CAREER!
THE PALACE
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY! THE SENSATIONAL
JANU STARK
JANU STARK
CLENCH WAS THERE. IN ONE OF HIS MANY DISGUISES...
STAGE DOOR
THE RISK IS GREAT BUT STARK WILL PERISH THIS TIME. THAT VERY CYLINDER WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF HIS DEATH!
THEN...
BLIND LARGO AGAIN! HIS EARS ARE WORTH A DOZEN MEN'S EYES! HE MUST BE REMOVED..!
TAPPA
PPA

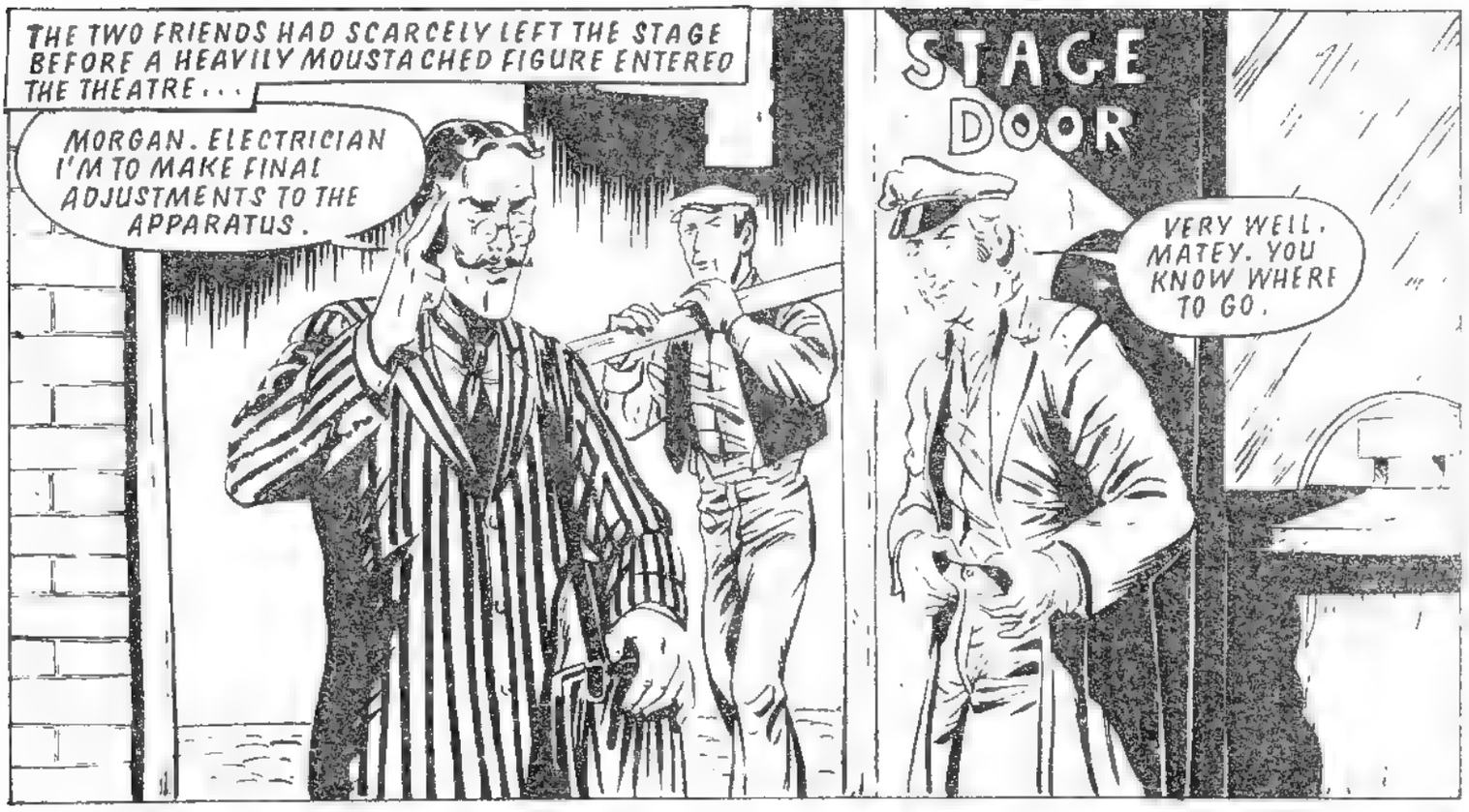
FEW MEN COULD HAVE BEEN SO CALLOUSLY BRUTAL...
AAAGH!
TRIPP
GOT YOU, YOU OLD MEDDLER!
THOKK

CLENCH PICKED UP HIS UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM..

ALLEYS AND SLIPWAYS LED TO THE CENTRAL RAILWAY YARDS...
YOU'LL BE OUT OF THE WAY HERE, MY BLIND FRIEND. LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO MY WORK!

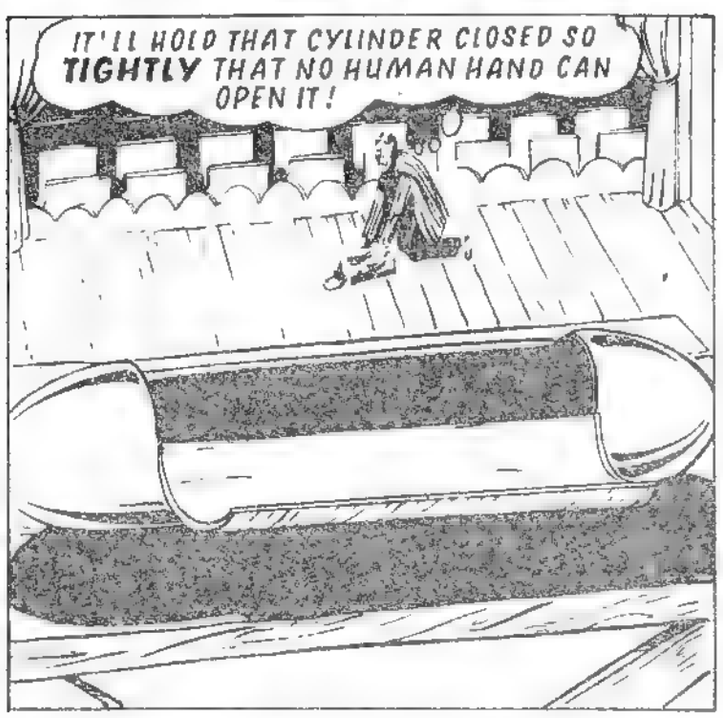
A TINY PICKLOCK MADE SHORT WORK OF THE PADLOCK ON THE TOOL-SHED DOOR...
SLEEP ON! TONIGHT, YOUR PRECIOUS JANUS STARK DIES! FOUR THOUSAND VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY WILL SNUFF HIS LIFE FOR EVER!
AND NOW - TO THE THEATRE!
SNEKK
THERE, ON STAGE, THE SETTING - FOR VICTORIAN TIMES - RESEMBLED SOMETHING OUT OF A FUTURIST'S LABORATORY...
IT ALL LOOKS BAFFLING TO ME, JANUS. EXPLAIN..
IT WILL BE NO MYSTERY TO OUR BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS, BARNABY...

THE STEAM-ENGINE WILL POWER THE ELECTRICAL GENERATOR..
THIS GENERATOR WILL QUICKLY BUILD UP A **POWERFUL** VOLTAGE...
AT FOUR THOUSAND VOLTS, A MASSIVE DISCHARGE WILL LEAP FROM **THIS** TERMINAL - THROUGH THE CYLINDER - AND TO THE OTHER BALL.
PHEE-EEEW! YOU'D BETTER BE VERY SURE YOU CAN GET OUT OF THE CYLINDER BEFORE **THAT** HAPPENS!
THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF RISK IN **ALL** THINGS, MY DEAR FELLOW...
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CLENCH?
LARGO WILL GIVE ME WARNING OF **HIS** RETURN, NEVER FEAR!
YOUR COOL HEAD NEVER CEASES TO FASCINATE ME, JANUS!

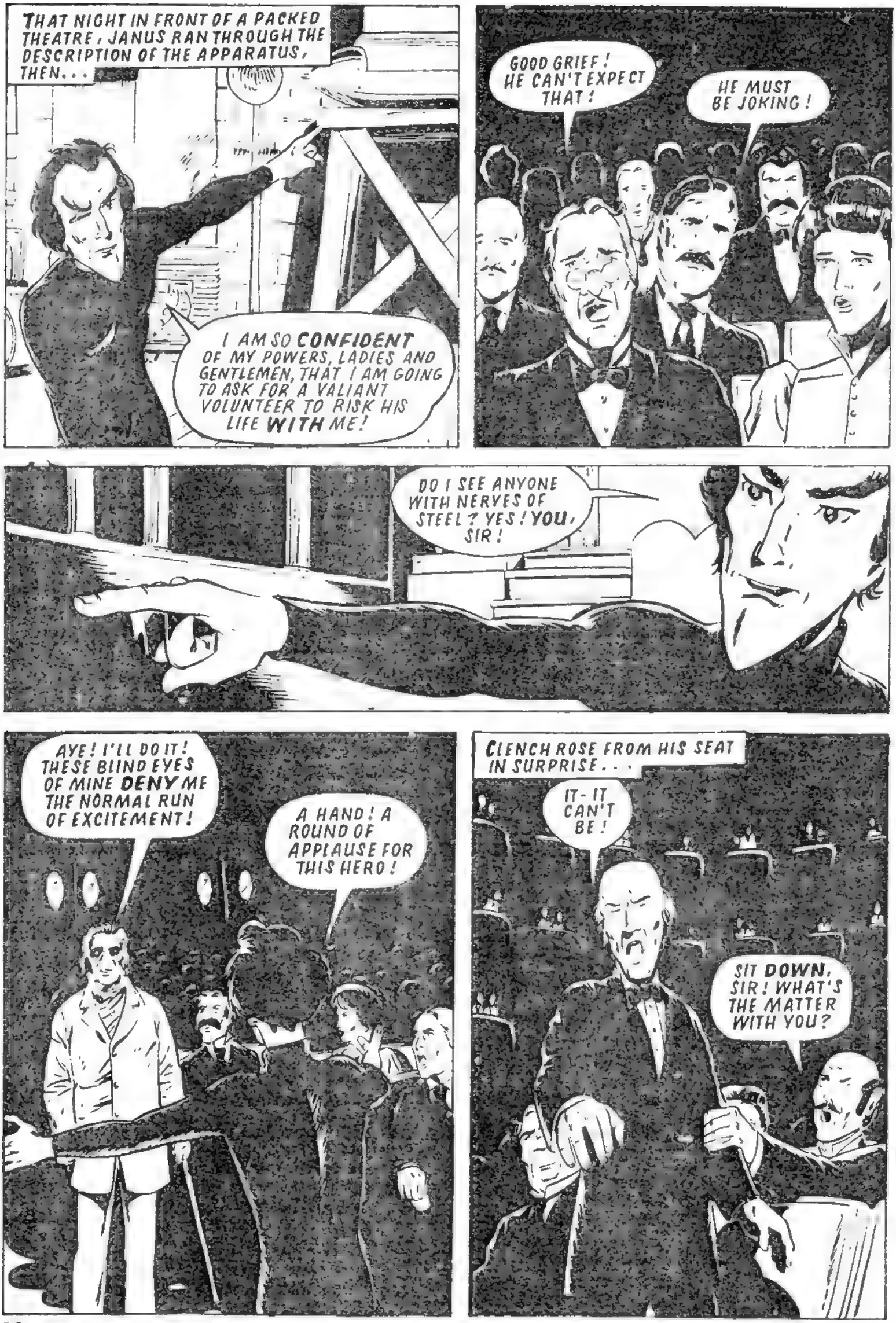

THE TWO FRIENDS HAD SCARCELY LEFT THE STAGE BEFORE A HEAVILY MOUSTACHED FIGURE ENTERED THE THEATRE . . .
MORGAN. ELECTRICIAN I'M TO MAKE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE APPARATUS.
STAGE DOOR
VERY WELL, MATEY. YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO.

WITH BRASS-NECKED CONFIDENCE, CLENCH STRODE TO THE GENERATOR . . .
A LITTLE ALTERATION IN THE WIRING, AND THIS BEAUTY WILL PERFORM A DOUBLE ROLE . . .

NOW! WHEN THE CHARGE BUILDS UP THE POWER WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL MAGNETIC FIELD . . .


IT'LL HOLD THAT CYLINDER CLOSED SO TIGHTLY THAT NO HUMAN HAND CAN OPEN IT!

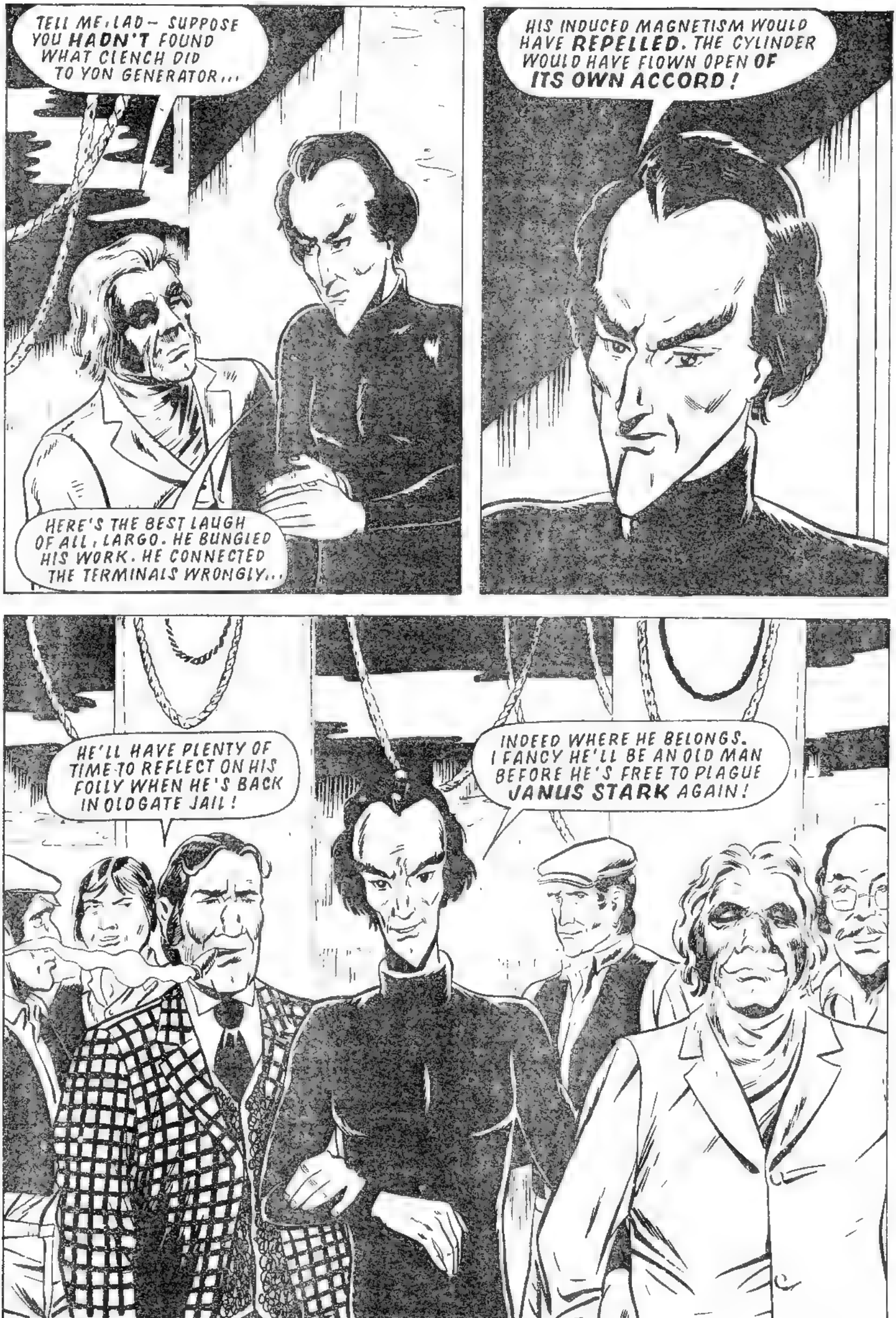
IT HAD TAKEN NO MORE THAN TEN MINUTES . . .
DOOR
OKAY, CHUM?
FINE! CHEERIO FOR NOW, MATE.


THAT NIGHT IN FRONT OF A PACKED THEATRE, JANUS RAN THROUGH THE DESCRIPTION OF THE APPARATUS, THEN...
I AM SO CONFIDENT OF MY POWERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT I AM GOING TO ASK FOR A VALIANT VOLUNTEER TO RISK HIS LIFE WITH ME!
GOOD GRIEF! HE CAN'T EXPECT THAT!
HE MUST BE JOKING!
DO I SEE ANYONE WITH NERVES OF STEEL? YES! YOU, SIR!
AYE! I'LL DO IT! THESE BLIND EYES OF MINE DENY ME THE NORMAL RUN OF EXCITEMENT!
A HAND! A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THIS HERO!
CLENCH ROSE FROM HIS SEAT IN SURPRISE...
IT- IT CAN'T BE!
SIT DOWN, SIR! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

YOU OFFER YOURSELF IN THE MAN'S PLACE, MY FRIEND? YES! YOU WOULD BE A SLIMMER FIT, INDEED!
K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME, STARK!
JANUS STEPPED CLOSER. HIS WORDS CAME AT NO MORE THAN A HISS...
I INSIST YOU ACCOMPANY ME INTO THAT CYLINDER, CLENCH I WILL BROOK NO REFUSAL!
WITH A WILD YELL OF TERROR, CLENCH BROKE FREE AND RAN...
CURSE YOU, JANUS STARK! WHY DIDN'T I TAKE A PISTOL TO YOU...
POOR, INSANE FOOL YOUR BRIEF SPELL OF FREEDOM IS OVER!
HOLD HIM WELL, GENTLEMEN!
HE WON'T GIVE US NO TROUBLE, SIR!
JANUS HAD HELD THE CROWD ENTHRALLED AS HE TOLD THEM THE STORY OF CLENCH'S MISSION OF REVENGE...
LITTLE DID OUR VILLAIN REALISE THAT BLIND LARGO WAS MY TUTOR! NO PALTRY TOOLSHED COULD HOLD HIM!

AND NOW – THE ESCAPE! REMEMBER – I HAVE BUT FIVE SECONDS BEFORE THE DISCHARGE OF FOUR THOUSAND VOLTS!
GOOD LUCK, MR. STARK!
I THANK YOU – BUT SINCE WHEN HAS JANUS STARK HAD NEED OF LUCK!.?
THE GEAR LEVER CONNECTING ENGINE TO GENERATOR WAS THROWN INTO PLACE...
WHIIIINE
SHRIEEE
I'D CALL IT LUCK THE WAY HE FOUND THAT TRICKY WIRING ON THE GENERATOR!
NAWWW! HE KNEW IT WOULD'VE BEEN TAMPERED WITH, DIDN'T HE!

TWO SECONDS! THREE! FOUR! THE VOLTAGE PILED UP! THEN...
SH-WHANGG!
KA-LOOON
EVEN AS HE JUMPED CLEAR, A FLASH OF BLUE FLAME LIT UP THE STAGE...
THA-RAKKKKKKKKA
I GIVE YOU ALL MY THANKS!
ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT!
BRAVO!
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
MASTERLY, JANUS AND THERE ARE REPORTERS IN YOUR DRESSING ROOM FROM EVERY MAJOR NEWSPAPER IN THE COUNTRY!
AYE! THE CLENCH STORY WILL GIVE THEM SOMETHING UNUSUAL TO PRINT!


TELL ME, LAD — SUPPOSE YOU HADN'T FOUND WHAT CLENCH DID TO YON GENERATOR...
HERE'S THE BEST LAUGH OF ALL, LARGO. HE BUNGLED HIS WORK. HE CONNECTED THE TERMINALS WRONGLY...
HIS INDUCED MAGNETISM WOULD HAVE REPELLED. THE CYLINDER WOULD HAVE FLOWN OPEN OF ITS OWN ACCORD!
HE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO REFLECT ON HIS FOLLY WHEN HE'S BACK IN OLDGATE JAIL!
INDEED WHERE HE BELONGS. I FANCY HE'LL BE AN OLD MAN BEFORE HE'S FREE TO PLAGUE JANUS STARK AGAIN!

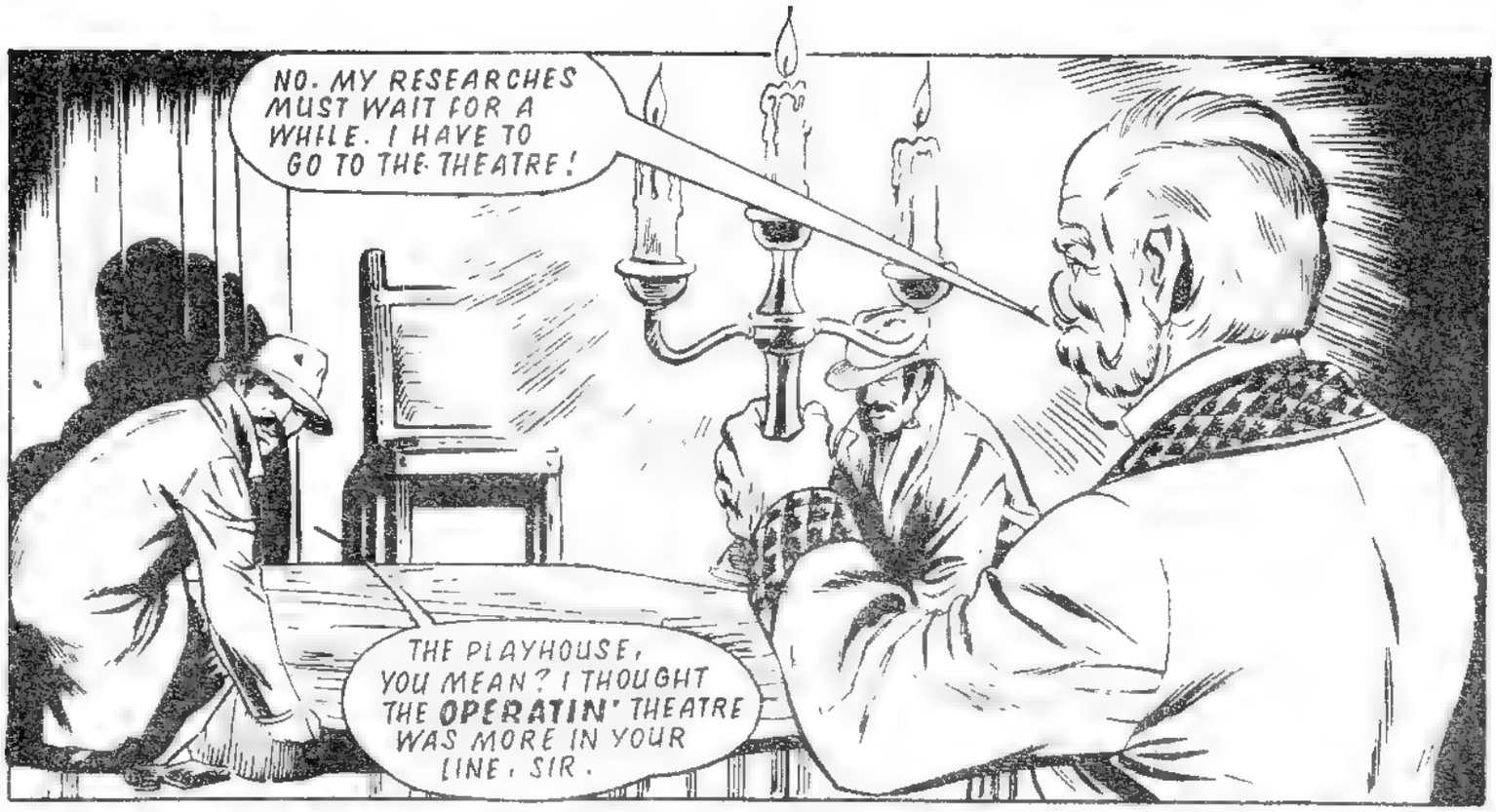
THE BODY SNATCHERS

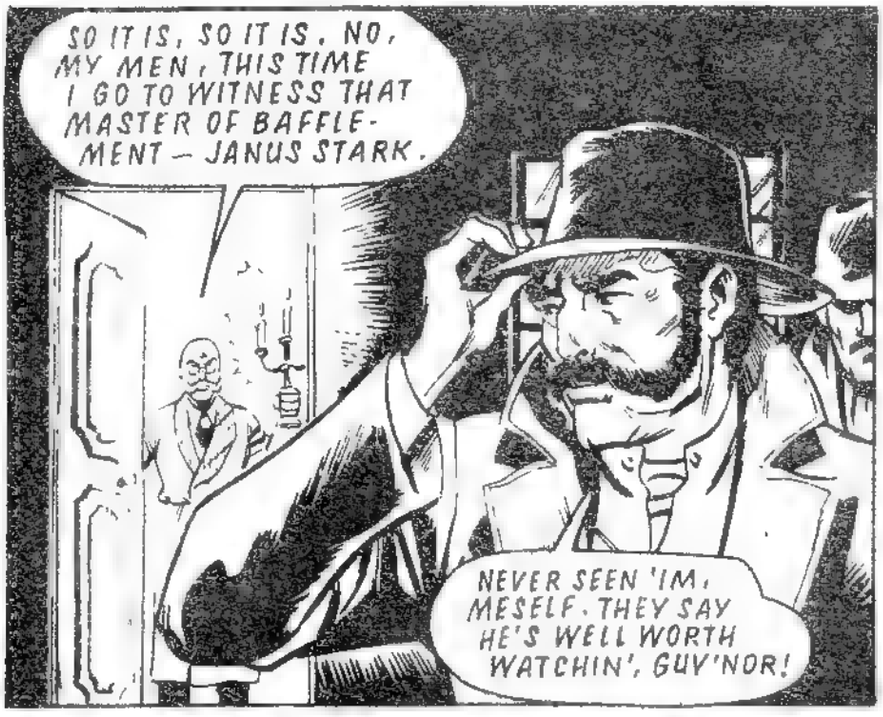
FEW PEOPLE CARED TO VENTURE NEAR THE GRAVEYARD OF SAINT MAGNUS THE MARTYR AFTER DARK. A GRIM, EERIE SPRAWL OF LEANING HEADSTONES AND GAUNT MONUMENTS, IT LAY TO THE EAST OF LONDON'S CITY. IT WAS THE DOMAIN, FOLK SAID, OF GHOSTS AND GHOULS...

IT WAS NO GHOST, THOUGH, THAT PACED RESTLESSLY AMONG THE GRAVES. IT WAS JANUS STARK, THE WORLD FAMOUS ESCAPOLOGIST...
SLEEP ELUDES ME THIS NIGHT I FEAR THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM INSOMNIA...

HOLD HARD, YOU VILLAINOUS BLACKGUARDS!
WE'RE RUMBLED RUN FOR IT, BERT!
YOU SHAN'T GET AWAY, YOU DOGS!
RRNDLE
KLATTA
BUT BY THE WORST OF LUCK, JANUS CAUGHT HIS FOOT ON A CHUNK OF FALLEN MASONRY..
AAAGH!
GOT YOU NOW, SNOOPER...
TRIPP
THWANM
GNNNF!

NOW TO FINISH HIM OFF!
NO, JEM! LET'S GET OUT WHILE THE GOING'S GOOD! HE AIN'T SEEN MUCH OF OUR FACES IN THIS LIGHT!
WHEN JANUS'S SENSES RETURNED THE BODY-SNATCHERS HAD GONE...
A PLAGUE ON THEM! PLUNDERING CORPSES TO SELL TO SOME UNSCRUPULOUS SURGEON OR OTHER!
MEANWHILE, AT THE REAR ENTRANCE OF A SECLUDED HOUSE, STANDING IN ITS OWN GROUNDS..
EVENIN', SIR RALPH THE BODY YOU ORDERED...
SPLENDID BRING IT IN-QUICKLY!
YOUR PAY.
WILL YOU BE WANTIN' ANOTHER, SIR? SAY, TOMORROW?


NO. MY RESEARCHES MUST WAIT FOR A WHILE. I HAVE TO GO TO THE THEATRE!
THE PLAYHOUSE, YOU MEAN? I THOUGHT THE OPERATIN' THEATRE WAS MORE IN YOUR LINE, SIR.


SO IT IS, SO IT IS, NO, MY MEN, THIS TIME I GO TO WITNESS THAT MASTER OF BAFFLEMENT — JANUS STARK.
NEVER SEEN 'IM, MESELF. THEY SAY HE'S WELL WORTH WATCHIN', GUV'NOR!

INDEED HE IS. HE IS QUITE REMARKABLE FASCINATING, ONE MIGHT SAY...

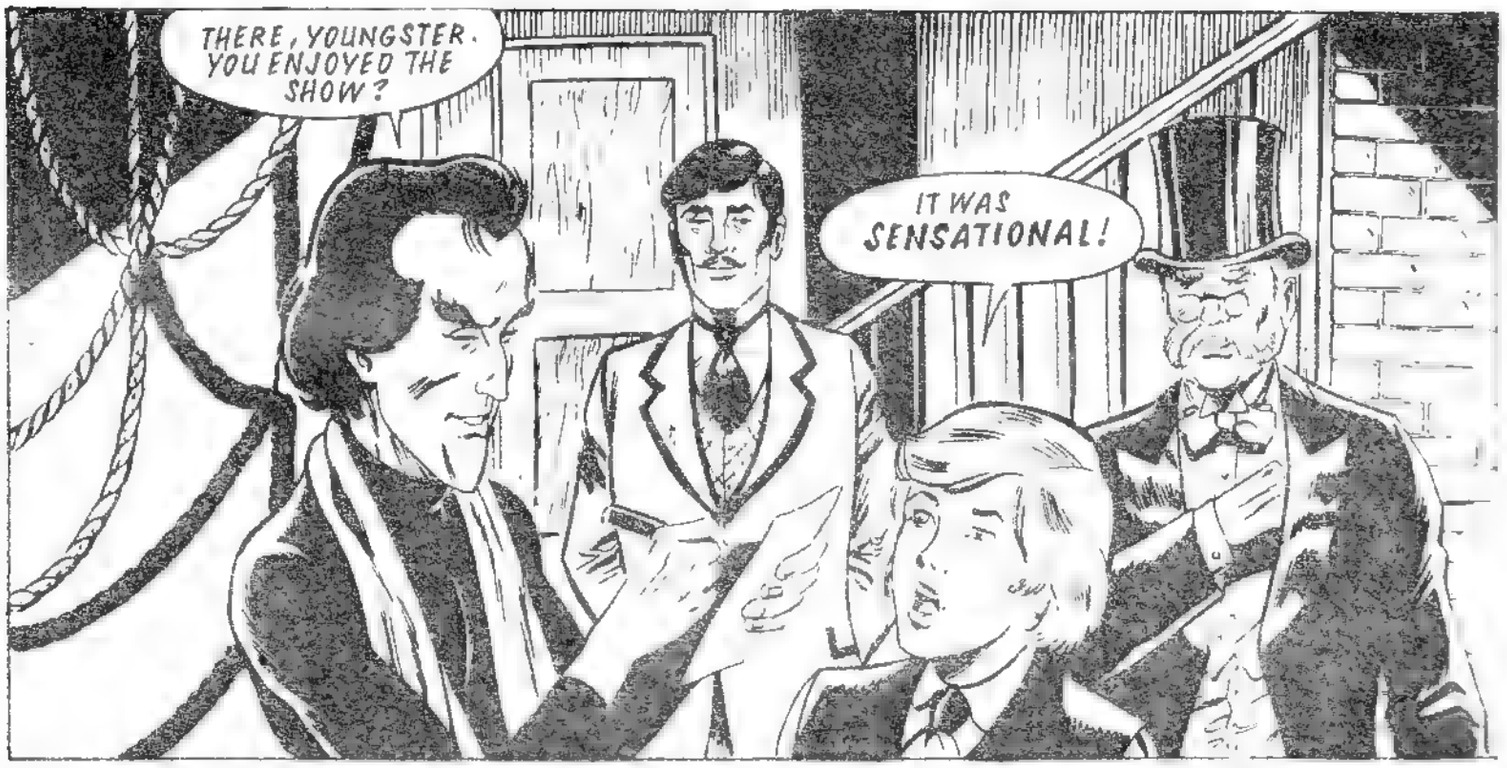
WHEN THE MEN HAD LEFT...
THOMAS! WHY ARE YOU NOT IN BED?
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOUNDS UNCLE...

SO YOU DID. CAN A MAN NOT TAKE A GLASS OF WATER WITHOUT HIS NEPHEW PESTERING HIM? GET YOU GONE, SIR AT ONCE!

IT WAS THE NEXT NIGHT THAT A HUSHED AND EXPECTANT AUDIENCE PACKED LONDON'S PALISADE THEATRE...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! I GIVE YOU – THE ONE AND ONLY – THE LEGENDARY JANUS STARK!
I BID YOU WELCOME, MY FRIENDS! WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS BEYOND HUMAN UNDER-STANDING!
THERE, YOU SEE A TANK OF ACID. BURNING DESTRUCTIVE SULPHURIC ACID! WHEN THE TAP IS OPENED, IT WILL POUR DOWN INTO THE BARREL...
I WILL BE THERE, MY FRIENDS! CHAINED LOCKED. AND TIED INTO THIS SACK...

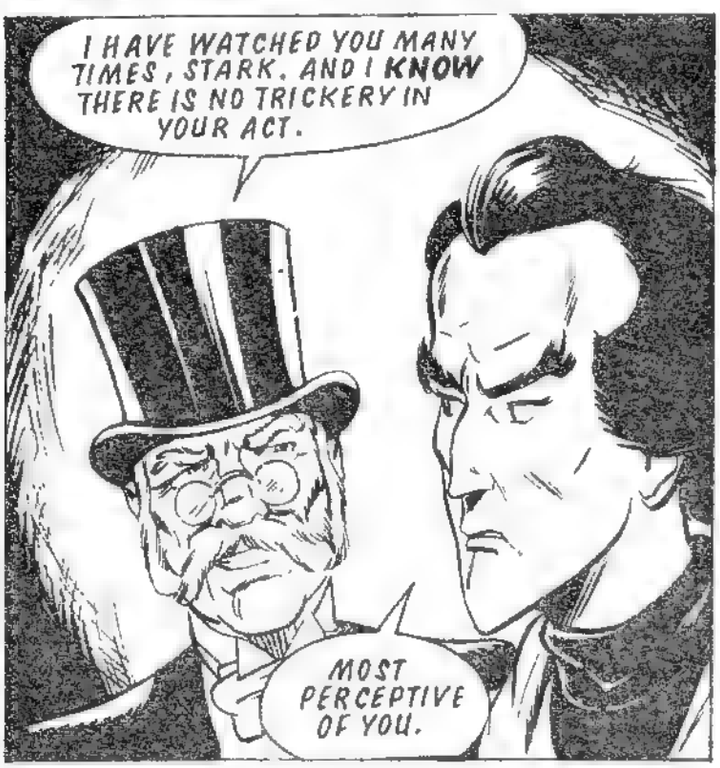
HE MEANS TO GET THROUGH TO THE OTHER BARREL, UNCLE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SILENCE, THOMAS! JUST WATCH - AND MARVEL!
THE LIDS WERE SEALED DOWN, AND...
LET THE DESTRUCTION COMMENCE!
MERE LOCKS AND SACKS WERE NO PROBLEM TO JANUS!
THE - THE CONNECTING PIPE! IS IT WIDE ENOUGH EVEN FOR MY ELASTIC BODY..?
AAAGH! THE THE PAIN..!
THE AUDIENCE WAS SPELLBOUND...
HE'S A GONER FOR SURE!
LOOK! THE ACID'S EATING ITS WAY THROUGH THE CASK!

THEN, JUST WHEN ALL SEEMED LOST...
HOLÀ! JANUS STARK SURVIVES!
AS USUAL, JANUS RECEIVED THE THUNDER OF APPLAUSE...
MAGNIFICENT OH-SUPERB!
UTTERLY COMPELLING COME, MY BOY-WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET THIS WIZARD!
REALLY, UNCLE? HONESTLY?
HE WILL HAVE RECEIVED MY CARD BY NOW, THOMAS. I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR HIM!
BUBBLING WITH EXCITEMENT, THOMAS BEAT HIS UNCLE TO THE BACKSTAGE AREA...
MR. STARK PLEASE MAY I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
HERE! WHO LET YOU IN? GET OUT OF IT!
EASY THERE, MR. CRIMMINS! THE LAD IS WELCOME TO MY SIGNATURE!
IF YOU SAY SO, MR. STARK!


THERE, YOUNGSTER. YOU ENJOYED THE SHOW?
IT WAS SENSATIONAL!

NOW THOMAS WAS GENTLY EASED ASIDE...
I TOO HAVE SOME PAPER I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SIGN, SIR. I AM SIR RALPH SCARSBY-FLYME. YOU WILL HAVE HEARD OF ME.
I FEAR YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE, SIR!

THE SURGEON, SIR. THE FAMOUS SURGEON.
AH! THEN I GREET YOU, SIR RALPH. AND WHAT IS THIS PAPER YOU HAVE..?


I HAVE WATCHED YOU MANY TIMES, STARK. AND I **KNOW** THERE IS NO TRICKERY IN YOUR ACT.
MOST PERCEPTIVE OF YOU.

YOUR BODY **CANNOT** BE LIKE THOSE OF OTHER MEN. HOW DOES THE OFFER OF **ONE THOUSAND POUNDS** TEMPT YOU?
I BELIEVE I CATCH YOUR DRIFT, SIR

YOU WISH ME TO BEQUEATH YOU MY BODY FOR DISSECTION AFTER I DIE. AM I CORRECT?
INDEED YOU ARE BUT — BUT YOU SEEM SHOCKED!
I AM APPALLED, SIR. TAKE YOUR MONEY AND GO BACK TO YOUR KNIVES! AM I SO MUCH MEAT? AS IN A BUTCHER'S SHOP..?
WHAT A THING TO ASK!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, WHELP! I HAVE BEEN HUMILIATED! INSULTED!
BACK AT HOME, THE SURGEON BROODED LONG ON HIS FAILURE...
I WILL SEE THE INSIDE OF THAT BODY! WHAT FAME COULD BE MINE IF I SHOULD EXPLAIN THOSE COMPRESSIBLE BONES, THOSE RUBBER MUSCLES...
THEN HIS EYE FELL ON THE ENVELOPE JANUS HAD AUTOGRAPHED FOR HIS NEPHEW...
WHY NOT? SIMPLY COPY HIS SIGNATURE ONTO THE AGREEMENT TO LEAVE ME HIS BODY...
A KIND OF MADNESS SEIZED SIR RALPH IN THAT MOMENT. ALL LOGIC AND HUMANITY FLED FROM HIM...
BETTER STILL, IN THE INTERESTS OF SCIENCE, I WILL HAVE JANUS STARK KILLED! THE KNIFE WILL NOT WAIT!

HEAVILY CLOAKED, SIR RALPH VISITED A CERTAIN TAVERN IN THE CITY, THE VERY NEXT DAY...
'ULLO! 'TIS SIR RALPH!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR US AFTER ALL, JEM!
THAT THE JOB WAS MURDER MADE SCANT DIFFERENCE. THEIR ONLY CONSIDERATION WAS MONEY...
IT'LL MEAN TWO 'UNDRED EACH, GUV'NOR!
TAKE YOUR TIME. DO IT PROPERLY. AND I WANT NO CONNECTION WITH THE MATTER!
JUST LEAVE IT TO US, SIR. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WHEN THE DEED'S DONE!
EXCELLENT. AND MIND, YOU VILLAINS DON'T DAMAGE HIM!

I'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM, TOO. THEY'LL BE NO LOSS TO SOCIETY – ROGUES THAT THEY ARE!
IN THE MEANTIME, JANUS HAD BEEN PLEASED TO RECEIVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR IN HIS DRESSING ROOM...
WELL, WELL! HOW ARE YOU TODAY, YOUNG MAN?
I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR DISTURBING YOU, SIR!
I CAME TO APPOLOGISE FOR MY UNCLE'S CONDUCT!
NONSENSE! THINK NO MORE OF IT. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY GUEST FOR TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE? A DIFFERENT ILLUSION, OF COURSE!
BESIDE HIMSELF WITH DELIGHT, THOMAS QUICKLY LOST HIS NERVOUSNESS...
PLEASE, MR. STARK – WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF? I MEAN – YOUR SECRETS?
THAT I CANNOT DO, LAD. BUT I CAN TELL YOU HOW I CAME TO RECOGNISE MY SKILLS...
IT WAS AT THE ORPHANAGE WHERE I GREW UP. IT WAS A HARD, BITTER PLACE. I HAD INFRINGED THE RULES IN SOME WAY...

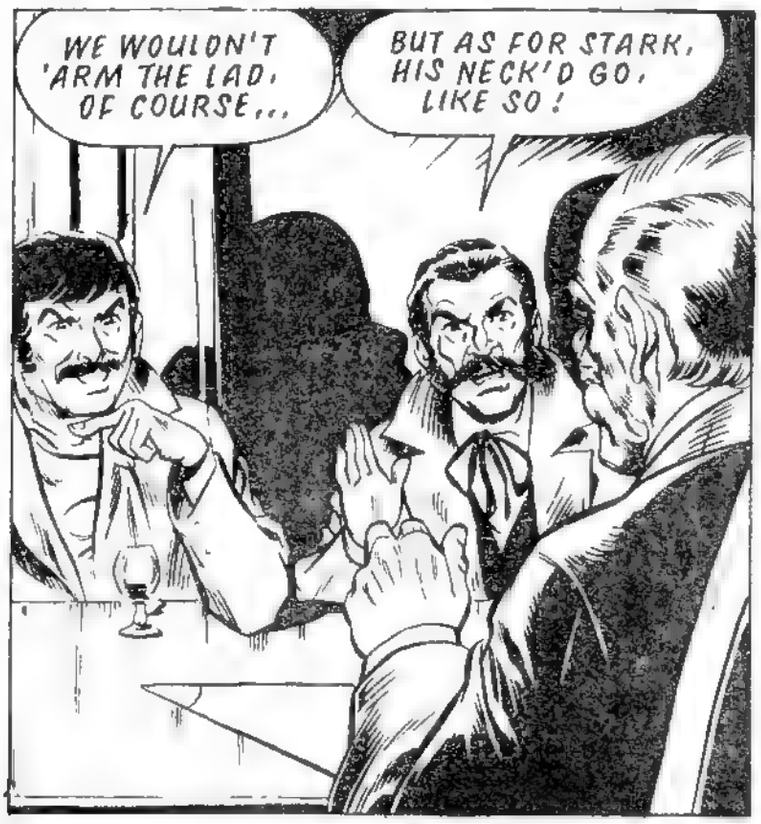
NO SUPPER FOR YOU, MY LAD! YOU MAY REFLECT UPON YOUR SINS IN THE CONFINES OF THE CUPBOARD!
HE'S LUCKY! WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO EAT SUPPER!
AYE! THE SWILL THEY GIVES US HERE AIN'T FIT FOR PIGS!
"I FOUND THAT MY FINGERS WERE PLIABLE AS THOUGH THEY WERE MADE OF ELASTIC..."
IT – IT HURTS! BUT – BUT I CAN REACH THE TUMBLERS OF THE LOCK..!
SNEKKK
FREE! AND NOW TO PUT ONE OVER ON THE VILLAIN WHO RULES US!

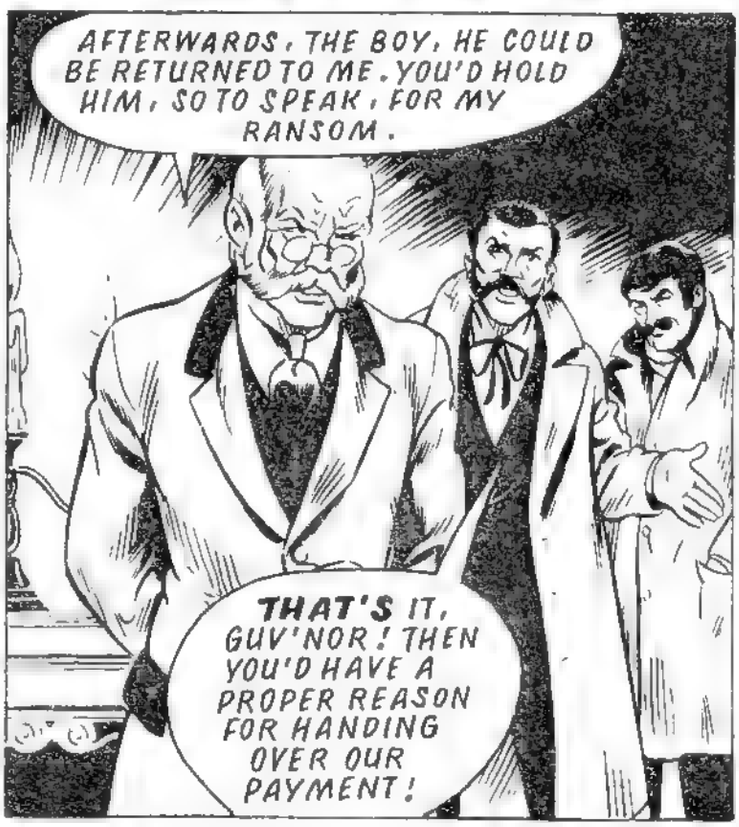
"I STOLE TO THE PANTRY, WHERE THE ORPHANAGE MASTER HAD HIS OWN SUPPLY OF FOOD LOCKED AWAY...
KLIKKITA KLEK
"MY COMPANIONS BLESSED ME THAT NIGHT...
HERE, MY FRIENDS! WE'LL HAVE FULL BELLIES FOR ONCE!
WHEW! THAT'S MARVELLOUS!
TO ME, IT WAS NATURAL. HERE, THOMAS — HOW WOULD YOU CARE FOR A SMALL SOUVENIR..?
WHAT IS IT?
A SIMPLE PICK-LOCK. RETURN AGAIN, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO USE IT. ONLY FOR FUN, MIND...

THANK YOU, S.R.!
'TIS NOTHING. NOW OFF WITH YOU AND ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE, MY BOY
THAT NIGHT, JANUS LEFT THE THEATRE IN THE COMPANY OF SOME THEATRICAL FRIENDS...
CONFOUND IT! WE NEED TO CATCH THE BLOKE ALONE, JEM!
AYE. IT'LL BE A PROBLEM, MATEY. HE'S TOO POPULAR BY HALF!
WAIT A BIT. WHAT ABOUT THAT BRAT WHO LIVES WITH SIR RALPH? HIS NEPHEW!
THAT'S A THOUGHT BERT. THE KID SEEMS TO HAVE MADE A REAL PAL OUT OF JANUS STARK!

OY! WHAT DO YOU WANT A CAB FOR?
TO GET OUT TO SIR RALPH'S PLACE. WE'LL NEED HIS CONNIVANCE FOR THE PLAN I'VE GOT IN MIND...

ONE HOUR LATER...
SO YOU SEE, IF WE **SNATCH** YOUR NEPHEW AND MAKE SURE HE CAN GET A MESSAGE FOR HELP TO JANUS STARK...
HMM. YES. IT WOULD WORK. STARK WOULD RESPOND – AND FALL STRAIGHT INTO YOUR CLUTCHES.


WE WOULDN'T 'ARM THE LAD, OF COURSE...
BUT AS FOR STARK, HIS NECK'D GO, LIKE SO!


AFTERWARDS, THE BOY, HE COULD BE RETURNED TO ME. YOU'D HOLD HIM, SO TO SPEAK, FOR MY RANSOM.
THAT'S IT, GUV'NOR! THEN YOU'D HAVE A PROPER REASON FOR HANDING OVER OUR PAYMENT!

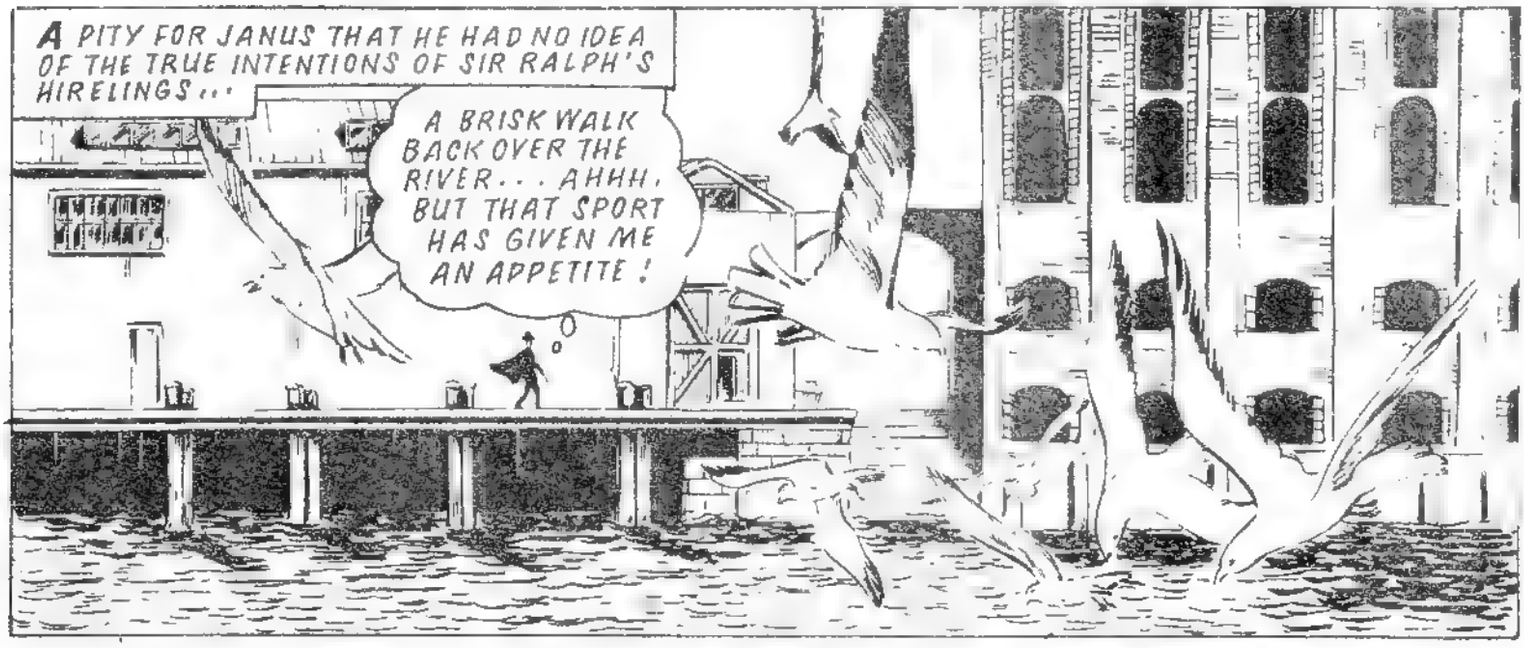
THOMAS SLEEPS ABOVE. DO IT NOW!
A PLEASURE!
KA-LUDD
QUICKLY, THEY DRESSED THE BOY IN OUTDOOR CLOTHES. . .
CAUTION, MEN! LET NOBODY ESPY YOU!
DON'T YOU WORRY SIR RALPH! LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US!
IT WAS AT HIS LODGINGS, NOT FAR FROM THE PALISADE THEATRE, THAT JANUS FIRST LEARNED OF THOMAS'S ABOUCTION. . .
MR. STARK? THIS WAS LEFT FOR YOU AT THE THEATRE!
THANK YOU, MY BOY!

Help Me,
Mister Stink threatened me for Ransom at the Clink Warehouse, in Southwark, Don't tell the Police or they'll Kill Me
Thomas
HOUNDS OF HADES! WHAT VILLAINY IS THIS..?
JANUS DID NOT HESITATE...
SOME ROGUES HAVE SEEN MY FRIENDSHIP WITH THE LAD! THEY SEEK TO EXTORT MONEY FROM ME FOR HIS FREEDOM!
A CAB TOOK HIM TO THE DANK, CHEERLESS AREA BY THE RIVER THAMES...
YOUR FARE, CABBIE!
TA, GUV! WANT ME TO WAIT?
N°7
YES. THERE'S A GUINEA IN IT FOR YOU, MY MAN AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY TO MOVE — QUICKLY.

JANUS FOUND THE WAREHOUSE THAT THE NOTE HAD DIRECTED HIM TO— BUT HE DID NOT USE THE DOOR TO GET IN...
AS I THOUGHT A TRAP!
SPIKE 'IM, JEM!
AAHH! WOULD YOU, YOU CUR..!
UUHH!
KLASSH
SWISSH
BUST HIS STICK!
SHREDDA
TRY, MY INFANTS! JUST TRY!
YEEAARGH!
KRAKK!
NYARRGH!
RA-RUNNDLE

AS THE MEN SCRAMBLED DIZZILY TO RECOVER THEMSELVES...
RUN, BOY! RUN! A CAB WAITS OUTSIDE! GIVE HIM THIS!
BUT - BUT, MR. STARK! WHAT ABOUT YOU..?
CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT I HAVE MY HANDS FULL, THOMAS? DO AS I SAY!
ALMOST AS SOON AS THE BOY HAD GONE...
NYARRGH!
OOFF!
THAT'S RIGHT, FELLOW! SCREECH LIKE THE ANIMAL YOU ARE! I KNOW NOT YOUR IDENTITIES, NOR DO I WISH TO...

BUT YOU SHALL REMEMBER ME! NEVER – EVER PLAY YOUR EVIL GAMES AGAIN WITH... JANUS STARK!
KA-RAKKK
I FANCY I SHOULD HAVE HANDED THEM TO THE POLICE – BUT SUCH VERMIN ARE NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE.


A PITY FOR JANUS THAT HE HAD NO IDEA OF THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF SIR RALPH'S HIRELINGS...
A BRISK WALK BACK OVER THE RIVER... AHHH, BUT THAT SPORT HAS GIVEN ME AN APPETITE!

AS JANUS DINED, THOMAS RETURNED TO HIS UNCLE'S HOME...
WAIT THERE ONE MOMENT, YOU TWO. IT WORKED? STARK IS DEAD?

UNCLE! WHAT- WHAT DO YOU SAY...?
DEVIL TAKE IT! YOU!

I SEE IT ALL NOW! YOU – YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A –
SILENCE! CONFOUND MY STUPID TONGUE!
A PLAGUE ON YOU, BOY! UNLESS I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER ANSWER, YOU HAVE SEALED YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT!
THAT'S
UGH!
ALL FOR SCIENCE! NOTHING MUST STAND IN MY WAY! NOT EVEN MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!
A BOX-ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE HOUSE...
YOU'LL KEEP IN HERE WHILE I DECIDE HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH YOU!
KA-LEKKA

WHEN THOMAS RECOVERED HIS SENSES...
IF ONLY I WAS LIKE JANUS! HIS FINGERS COULD PROBE THIS LOCK AND OPEN IT...
THEN HE REMEMBERED HIS SPECIAL SOUVENIR...
OF COURSE! THE PICKLOCK JANUS GAVE ME! HE HAD NO TIME TO TEACH ME, BUT SURELY...
SA-NIKKA SNEKKA
DOWNSTAIRS, THERE WAS THE PEALING OF THE DOORBELL...
NOW WHAT? CAN IT BE THOSE TWO BUNGLING IMBECILES?
STARK!
SIR RALPH. YOU SEEM SURPRISED TO SEE ME..?

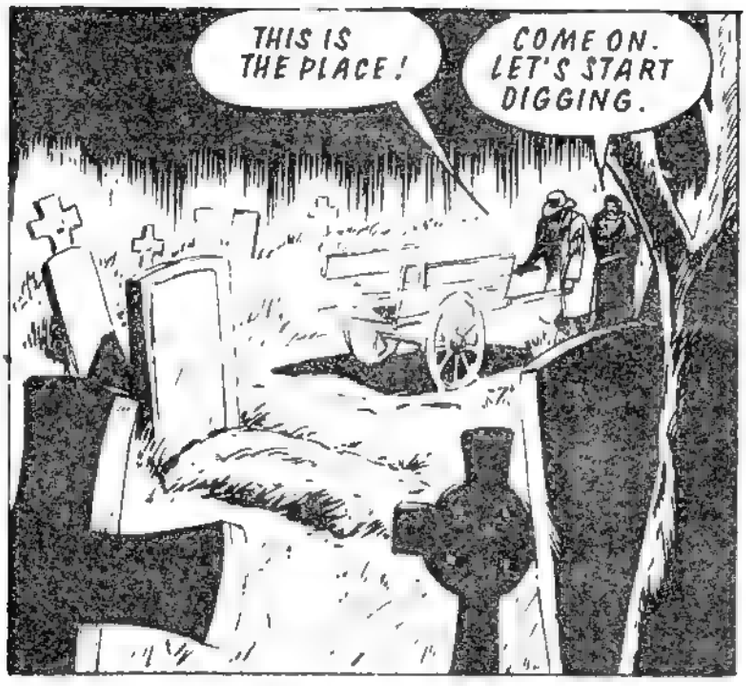
I MERELY CALLED TO ENQUIRE AFTER YOUR NEPHEW, THOMAS. HE RETURNED, I TRUST AND TOLD YOU OF HIS...
THE BOY IS NOT AT HOME!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, UNCLE..?
IT—IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT IN THUNDER GOES ON HERE..?
HIS MIND STRAINED BEYOND ENDURANCE, SIR RALPH SCARSBY-ELYME LASHED OUT...
AARGH!
SHALAMMM
CURSE YOU, STARK!
UNCLE!
WHAT MUST I DO TO BE RID OF THIS NIGHTMARE..!
KLODD

THINK. YES, YES YES. MUST THINK... IT CAN ALL WORK OUT! NOT A WITNESS— NOT ONE!
THIS TIME, IT WAS ROPES FOR THOMAS AND A THOROUGH SEARCH OF HIS POCKETS...
I FEAR THERE IS NO HOPE FOR YOU TO LIVE, NEPHEW... BUT WE SHALL SEE WE SHALL SEE...
FOR JANUS, THE APPLICATION OF A CHLOROFORM PAD TO KEEP HIM SENSELESS FOR VITAL HOURS...
I BEGIN TO SEE A WAY OUT! THOSE FOOLS— THEY CAN HELP ME STILL! BY HEAVEN, THEY SHALL EARN THEIR PAY!
FIRST, THE EVIL SURGEON DONNED JANUS'S HAT AND CLOAK, AND DELIBERATELY LEFT HIS HOUSE...
IF ANYONE WAS ABOUT TO SEE HIM ARRIVE, THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO SEE HIM LEAVE...
AT A SUITABLE DISTANCE, SIR RALPH DOUBLED ROUND THE BACK WAY AND RE-ENTERED HIS OWN GROUNDS AT THE REAR...
I CAN AFFORD TO TAKE NO CHANCES!

SLEEP ON, MY FRIEND. YOU WILL NEVER AWAKE...
NOW SCARSBY-FLYME WENT AGAIN TO SEEK THE AID OF HIS PAID BODY SNATCHERS...
OUT OF MY WAY, CURSE YOU!
KRAAK
SNAPP
WHY, SIR RALPH! ER-LOOK. ABOUT THE WAY WE BUNGLED!
NEVER MIND THAT, YOU FOOL!
ONCE MORE THE VILLAIN RETURNED TO HIS HOME...
BE AT THE GRAVEYARD AT MIDNIGHT. YOU WILL FIND A FRESH GRAVE. OPEN IT AND BRING ME THE BODY...
SAY NO MORE, GUV'NOR!

SOON ALL WILL BE OVER! ALL FINISHED— AND TRIUMPH SHALL BE MINE!
THEN THE LONELY BURIAL GROUND...
FA-THLOMP
IT WAS THEN THAT JANUS STARK'S SENSES BEGAN TO RETURN. BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!
SHOVE
THOLE
AT LAST THE DEED WAS DONE...
FAREWELL, STARK WE SHALL MEET AGAIN AFTER THOSE KNAVES HAVE DUG YOU UP— DEAD!

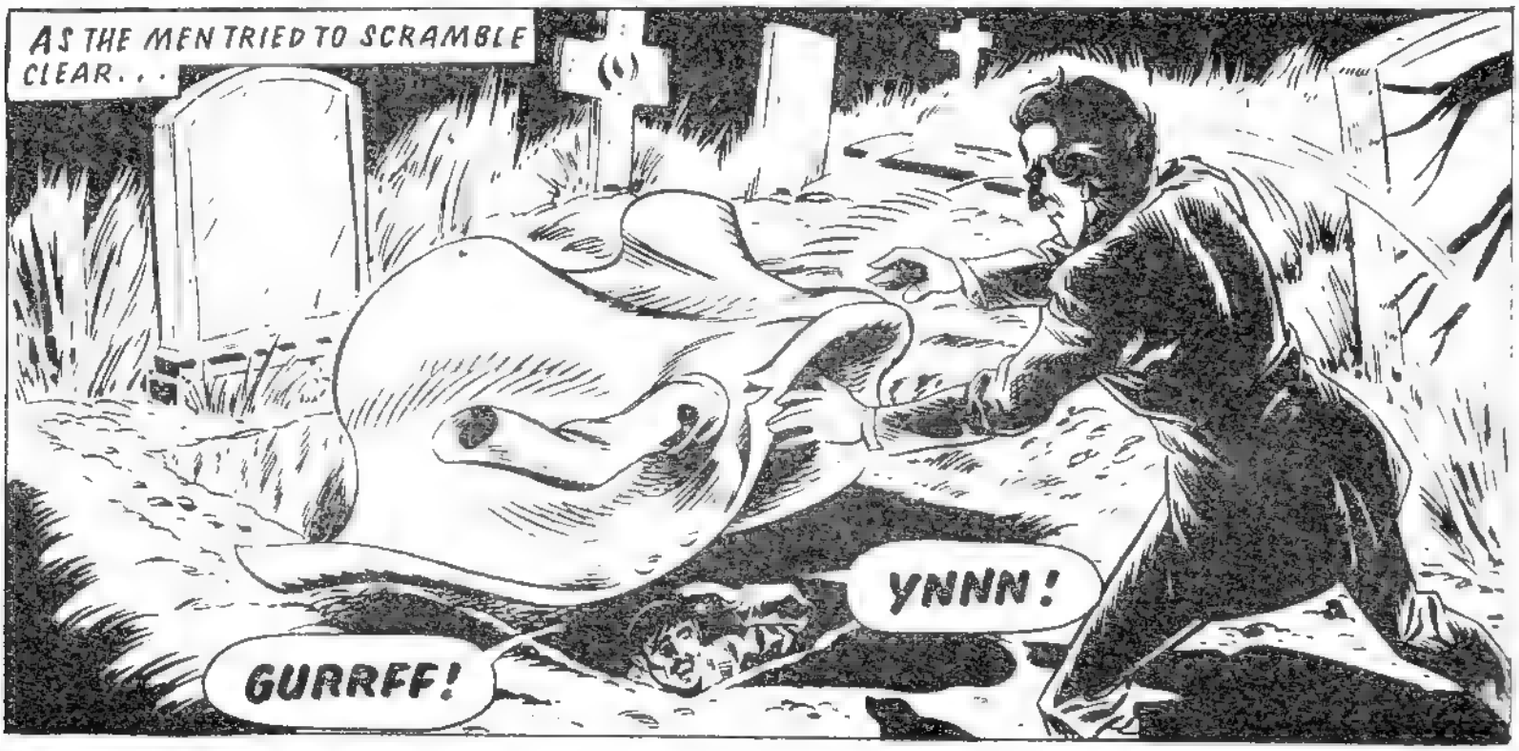
FOR THE FIRST TIME, JANUS STARK KNEW REAL, CRAWLING FEAR!
CAN EVEN I — ESCAPE FROM THIS GRISLY PREDICAMENT..?
MAY THE FATES GIVE ME THE POWER TO ESCAPE!
HIS MIRACULOUS BODY BEGAN TO TWIST... LIKE A HUMAN SCREW A DRILLING AUGER...
AAAGH! MY— EVERY SINEW— PROTESTS!
I HAVE DONE IT!
FWUNCH
SLOWLY RECOVERING HIS BREATH JANUS SUDDENLY HEARD THE APPROACHING RATTLE OF A HANDCART...
INSTINCT TELLS ME TO SEEK CONCEALMENT!


THIS IS THE PLACE!
COME ON. LET'S START DIGGING.

JANUS LET THE GRAVE-ROBBERS WASTE THEIR STRENGTH...
YE GODS, BUT HE MUST BE DEEP!
WHAT OF IT SIR RALPH'S PAYIN' US WELL FOR THIS!

EVENTUALLY...
I DON'T GET IT! IT'S EMPTY!
WHAT CAN IT MEAN..?

IT MEANS THAT I AM FREE, YOU BLACKGUARDS. I RECOGNISE YOUR VOICES AND NOW I KNOW EVERYTHING!
STARK!


AS THE MEN TRIED TO SCRAMBLE CLEAR...
YNNN!
GURREF!

I DETEST VIOLENCE, BUT WHEN NECESSITY COMMANDS...
RANNG
KA-LONG
BACK AT SIR RALPH SCARSBY-FLYME'S MANSION...
IT WILL LOOK AS THOUGH YOU FELL DOWN THE STAIRS, THOMAS I SHALL GIVE YOU A SLEEPING DRAUGHT. IT WILL BE AN OVERDOSE...
UNCLE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU ARE INSANE!

I SEEK ONLY THE TRUTH. DOES THE END NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS? MANY WILL HAVE DIED FOR SCIENCE ERE DAWN BREAKS!
PLEASE! DON'T DO THIS!
DRINK, YOU WHELP! DRINK!
MMFFF! NNNN!

THEN...
WHAT? IT'S YOU! YOU STARTLED ME!
KLEKKK
WE - WE'VE BROUGHT STARK.
EXCELLENT! SPLENDID! LET ME SEE HIS BODY! DRAG IT IN!
NO NEED, SIR RALPH. MY OWN LEGS ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF CARRYING ME!
AAAGH! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! I BURIED YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS!
A SUPERB CONFESSION, SIR - EVEN THOUGH YOUR TWO ACCOMPLICES HAVE ALREADY TURNED QUEEN'S EVIDENCE TO MY FRIENDS HERE!
I AM RUINED! RUINED!

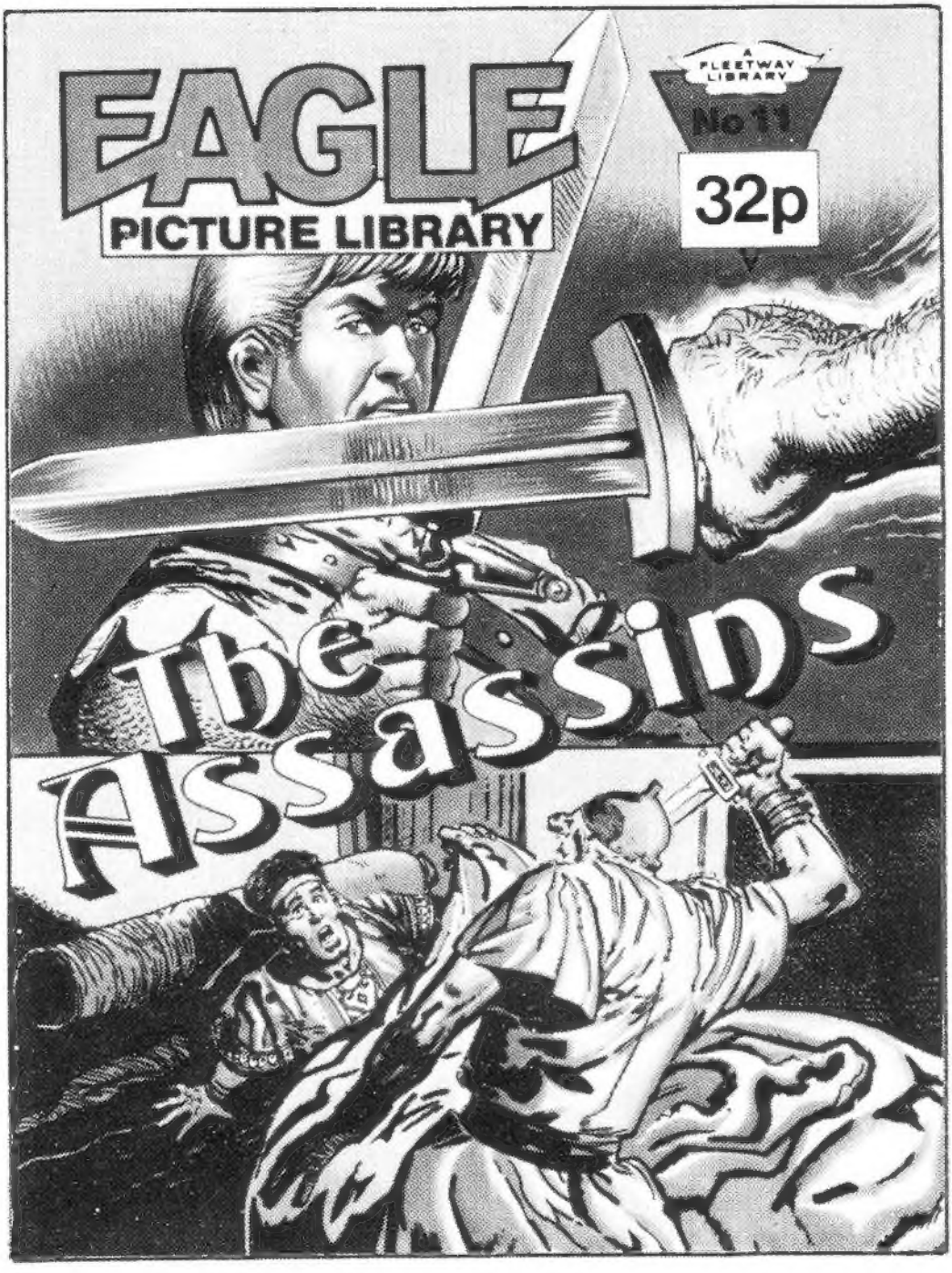
ONLY ONE WAY OUT!
THAT IS NOT THE KIND OF ESCAPE I TOLERATE YOU VILLAIN! YOU SHALL ANSWER FOR YOUR CRIMES...
SA-MASSH!
TAKE THEM AWAY, OFFICERS. I WANT TO SEE NO MORE OF THEM UNTIL THEY ARE IN COURT!
JANUS! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE..?
NO NEED, BOY. MEANTIME, I SHALL ACT AS YOUR GUARDIAN UNTIL LAWYER FRIENDS OF MINE SETTLE YOUR FUTURE!

IT WAS LONG AFTER SCARSBY-FLYME AND HIS MINIONS HAD GONE TO PRISON THAT A DISTANT RELATIVE CAME TO TAKE OVER THE SURGEON'S HOUSE...
HAVE YOU PASSED BY THE GRAVEYARD TODAY, JANUS? IT'S A SIGHT TO ME!
IT IS? PRAY TELL ME WHY, THOMAS...
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED, MR. STARK LOOK AT THEM ALL! SIGHTSEERS, EVERY ONE!
MODESTY FORBIDS ME TO COMMENT, MADAM!
INDEED, THE GRAVEYARD OF SAINT MAGNUS THE MARTYR WAS NO LONGER A PLACE OF FEAR. THANKS TO THE NEWSPAPERS, IT HAD BECOME THE MECCA OF ALL WHO WISHED TO SEE THE SPOT FROM WHICH JANUS STARK HAD MADE HIS MOST DESPERATE ESCAPE...
STIFLING, HE WAS! WITHIN AN ACE OF DEATH!
NOT A TOOL TO HELP HIM! NOT EVEN A TROWEL!
HE'S A MIRACLE WORKER, AND NO MISTAKE!
SUCH PUBLICITY CAN DO ME NO HARM. AND SCIENCE WILL HAVE TO WAIT BEFORE IT DISCOVERS THE TRUE SECRET OF MY SKILLS...

Published each month by IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. Printed by Cox & Wyman Ltd., Reading, Berks. Subscription facilities (inland and overseas) are not now available. Sole Agents: Australia and New Zealand, Gordon & Gotch Ltd., South Africa, Central News Agency Ltd. EAGLE PICTURE LIBRARY is sold subject to the following conditions, that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade except at the full retail price shown on the cover, selling price in Eire subject to VAT; and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition, or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade, or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter, whatsoever.

ALSO ON SALE NOW!

The action-packed companion issue of this great new library.



EAGLE Picture Library is on sale on the first Monday of every month.

COMBATING THE EVIL OF COBRA

DUKE AND HIS ACTION FORCE TEAM!

The Top Comic for Tough Stories!

Every Thursday in

BATTLE ACTION FORCE

Seek! Locate! Preserve!

Scanned by Zeg